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Standard varieties of chickens.

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STANDARD VARIETIES OF CHICKENS.

BY

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UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF

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STANDARD VARIETIES OF CHICKENS.

There are eighty-seven standard and a large number of promiscuous varieties of chickens raised in this country. The standard varieties are divided as follows:

(1) *American class*.—Barred, Buff, Pea-comb Barred, and White Plymouth Rocks; Silver, Golden, White, Buff, and Black Wyandottes; Black, Mottled, and White Javas; American Dominiques, and Jersey Blues.

(2) *Asiatic class*.—Light and Dark Brahmas; Buff, Partridge, White, and Black Cochins; Black and White Langshans.

(3) *Mediterranean class*.—Brown, Rose-comb Brown, White, Rose-comb White, Black, Dominique, Buff, and Silver Duckwing Leghorns; Black and White Minorcas; Andalusians and Black Spanish.

(4) *Polish class*.—White-crested Black, Golden, Silver, White, Bearded Golden, Bearded Silver, Bearded White, and Buff-laced.

(5) *Hamburg class*.—Golden-spangled, Silver-spangled, Golden-penciled, Silver-penciled, White, and Black Hamburgs; Redcaps; Silver and Golden Campines.

(6) *French class*.—Houdans, Crevecœurs, and La Fleche.

(7) *English class*.—White, Silver Gray, and Colored Dorkings.

(8) *Game and Game Bantam class*.—Black-breasted Red, Brown Red, Golden Duckwing, Silver Duckwing, Red Pyle, White, Black, and Birchen Games; the same varieties for Game Bantams. Cornish and White Indian Games; Malays and Black Sumatra Games.

(9) *Bantam class other than Game*.—Golden and Silver Sebrights; White and Black Rose-comb; Booted White; Buff, Partridge, White, and Black Cochins; Black-tailed, White, and Black Japanese, and White-crested White Polish.

(10) *Miscellaneous class*.—Russians, Silkies, Sultans, Frizzles, and Rumpless.

For practical purposes the above ten classes may be grouped into four general classes, as follows:

(1) The general-purpose breeds: The American class.

(2) The meat or table breeds: The Asiatic class.

(3) The egg breeds: The Mediterranean class.

(4) The ornamental breeds: The Polish, Exhibition Games, Miscellaneous, and Bantam classes.

PLYMOUTH ROCKS.

The Plymouth Rock is the most popular of all varieties of poultry as a general-purpose fowl. Its medium size, hardy growth, and good laying qualities make it a practical fowl for the farm. The Barred variety is the most generally known of the Plymouth Rocks, and its history dates back a little over a quarter of a century. Various bloods were used in its making, the belief being general that it originally came from a cross between the American Dominique and the Black Java. It has also been shown that the Light Brahma, Dark Brahma, and Pit Game have been used in its making.

The Barred Plymouth Rock (fig. 1) is of a grayish-white color, regularly crossed with parallel bars of blue-black running in straight dis-



FIG. 1.—Pair of Barred Plymouth Rocks.

tinct lines throughout the entire length of the feather, and showing on the down or undercolor of the feathers. The barring is somewhat smaller on the hackle and saddle feathers than on other portions of the body. The bird is of medium size, with broad neck, flat at the shoulders, the breast is full, and the body broad and compact, medium-sized wings that fold gracefully, the points being well covered with breast and saddle feathers; a medium-sized head, ornamented with upright, bright red comb and wattles; a large, bright eye; and yellow beak, legs, and toes, places the picture before us in its entirety. The difference between the Barred and the Pea-comb Barred is that the latter has a small, firm, and even pea-comb, instead of single comb.

For the farmer or market poultryman they are favorites, being of medium size, well proportioned, with a deep, full breast, making a most admirable bird for market purposes. They are hardy, mature early, and make excellent broilers from eight to twelve weeks old. They are good layers the year round, and in winter they lay exceptionally well. Their eggs are brown in color and average 8 to a pound. They are good sitters and excellent mothers.

The Barred Plymouth Rock, besides being a practical fowl, is also one of the most sought after by fanciers. No class is better filled at the average poultry show of the country than is this. The graceful

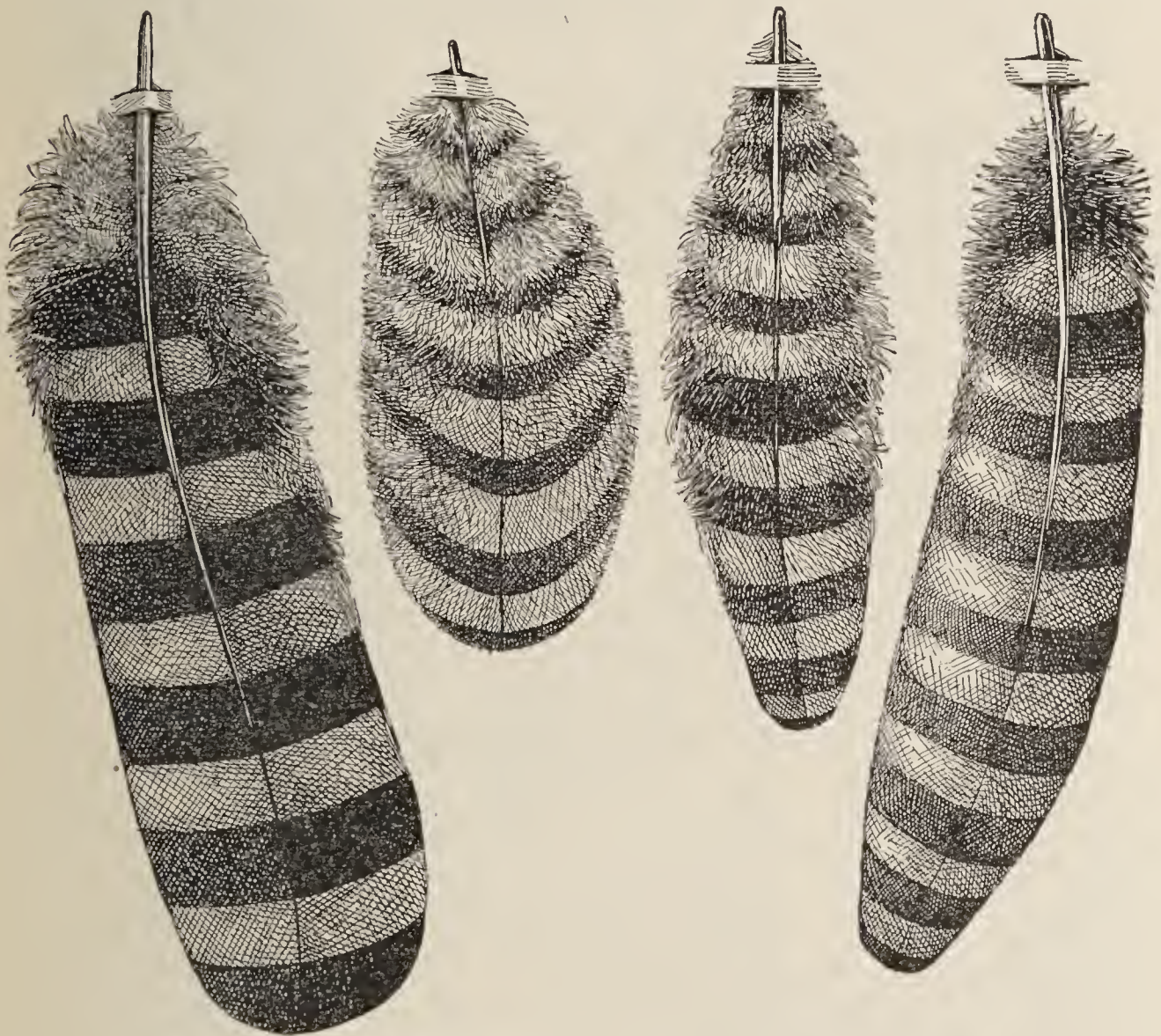


FIG. 2.—Feathers of Barred Plymouth Rocks.

figure, upright carriage, and active nature endear it to all as a fancier's fowl. There is a fascination in breeding it for plumage, the more regular and even the barring the better (fig. 2). It requires much skill to breed for color, and two matings are generally used. An established rule for mating for cockerels is to use a standard-color male with medium-dark females, and for pullets use light male and dark females. The double mating is resorted to by many, yet the writer has seen rare specimens produced from single matings.

The characteristics of the Barred Plymouth Rock are noticeable in the other varieties of Plymouth Rocks, excepting that of color. The size,

shape, general outlines, and qualities are the same in the other varieties as in the Barred. The White Plymouth Rock is pure white in plumage throughout, and the buff variety is a clear buff, uniform in shade, except the tail, which is deep buff or copperish-yellow brown. The buff should extend to the undercolor as much as possible; the deeper the better.

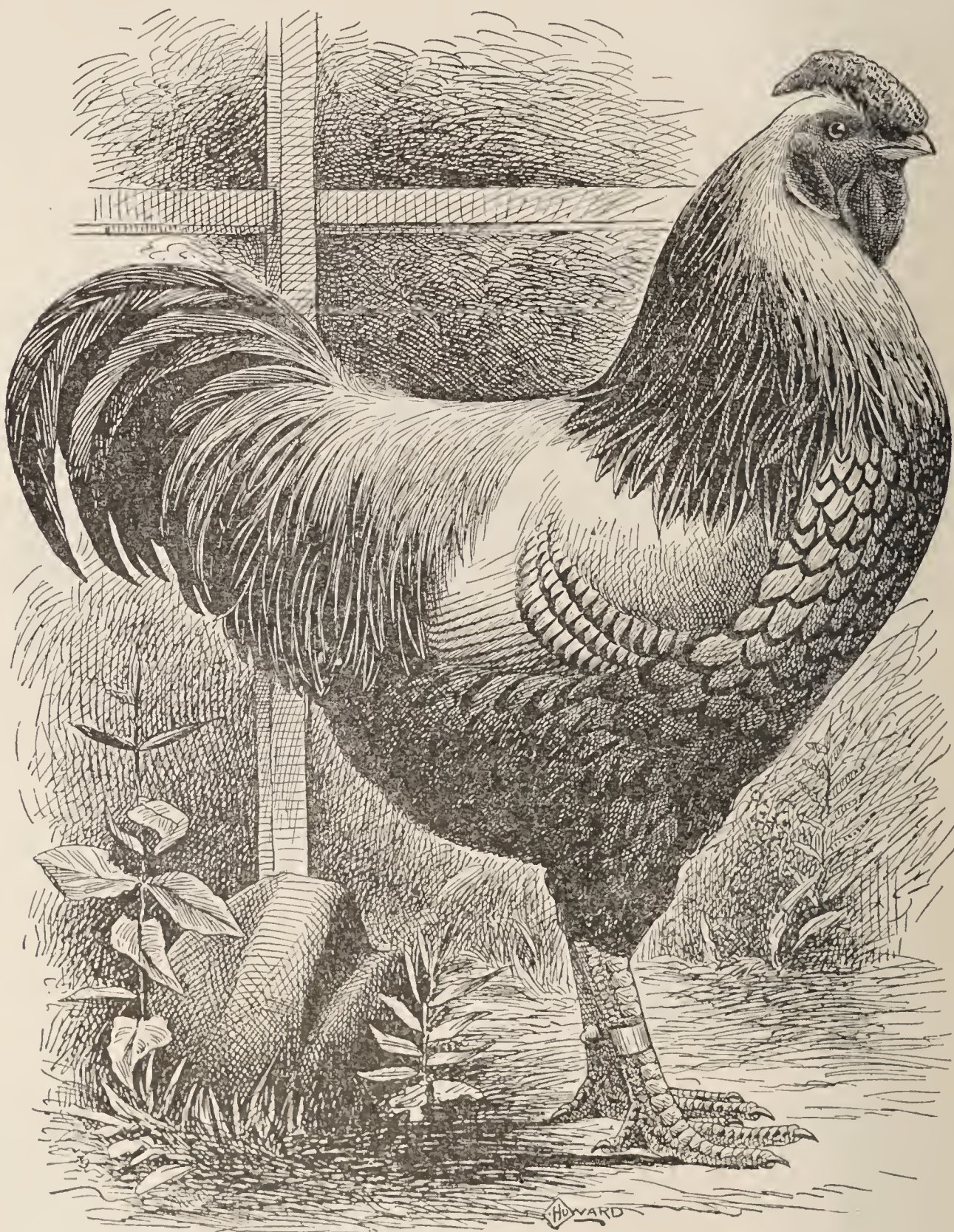


FIG. 3.—Silver-laced Wyandotte cockerel.

The standard weight of cocks is $9\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; hens, $7\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; cockerels, 8 pounds; and pullets, $6\frac{1}{2}$ pounds.

WYANDOTTES.

The Wyandotte (fig. 3) is another of the general-purpose fowls and is rated next to the Plymouth Rock. From the first it sprang into

popular favor and has continued so to the present time. Its origin is comparatively recent, dating back less than twenty-five years. It came originally from the Dark Brahma, Silver Spangled Hamburg, and

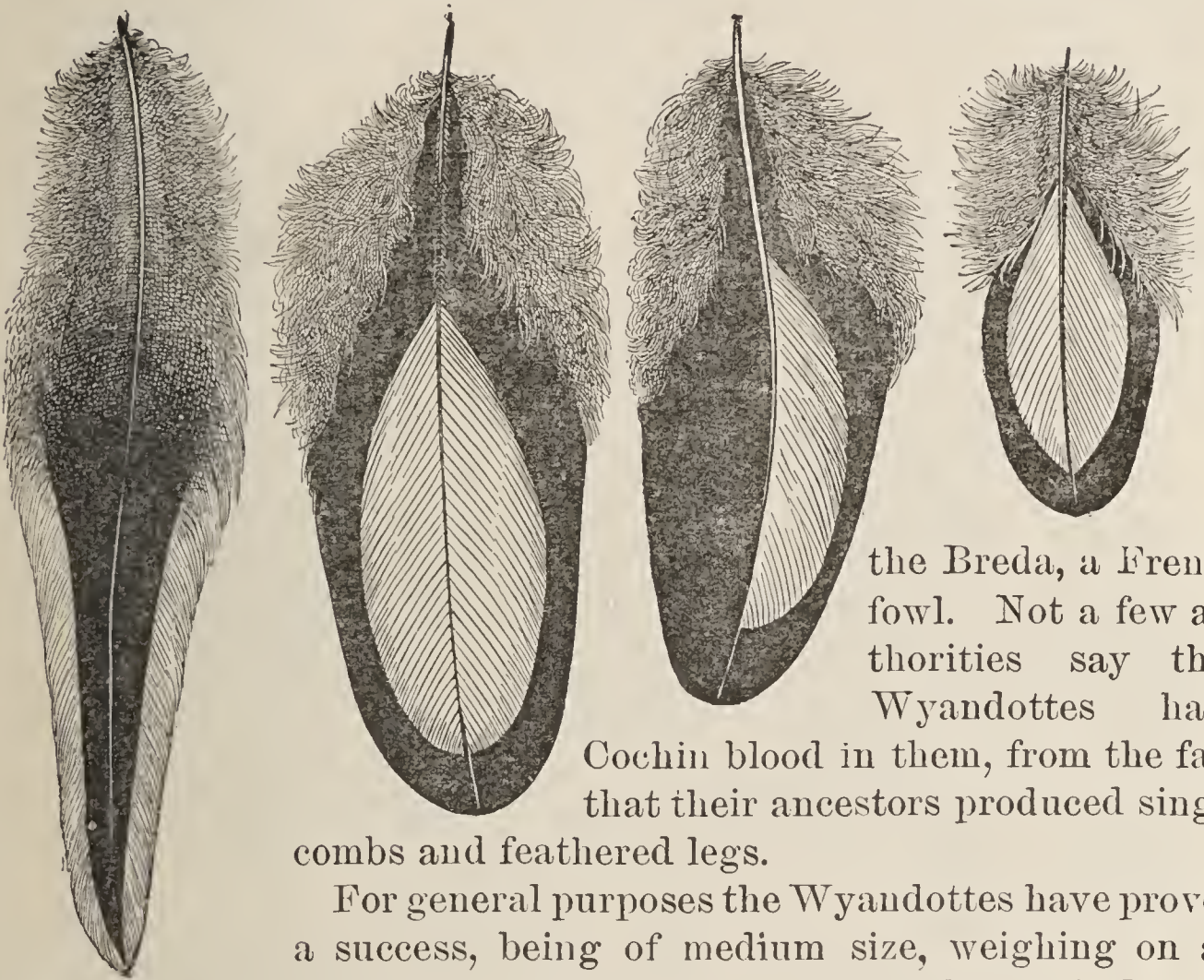


FIG. 4.—Feathers of Silver-laced Wyandotte.

the Breda, a French fowl. Not a few authorities say that Wyandottes have Cochin blood in them, from the fact that their ancestors produced single combs and feathered legs.

For general purposes the Wyandottes have proved a success, being of medium size, weighing on an average a pound less than the Plymouth Rocks, hardy of constitution, and prolific layers. They are easily cared for and bear confinement well. For table purposes they are of superior worth; their flesh is sweet, juicy, and tender, making excellent broilers and roasters. As layers they are among the best, averaging from twelve to fourteen dozens a year, and as winter layers they do well under ordinary circumstances.

There are five varieties of the Wyandotte breed, and it is only a matter of opinion as regards a choice of the best. The general characteristics are the same in all, the difference in color of plumage being the only distinguishing mark. The Silver-laced Wyandotte is of a silvery-white plumage, with regularly marked



FIG. 5.—Silver-laced Wyandotte pullet.

white lacing on breast and a generous distribution of white and black throughout the entire body. The cock has a silver-white head, rose comb, silver hackle, with a black stripe down the center of each feather, as shown in fig. 4; silvery white back; saddle same as hackle; breast black, with white center (see fig. 4); tail black; wings half black and half white, or rather, black edged with white; when wing is folded there should be a well-defined bar across the wing; shanks and toes rich yellow, free from feathering. The hen of the Silver-laced variety (fig. 5) is marked similarly to the male, excepting the back and wing, which are whiter in male than in female. The breast of the female is of much importance in breeding good birds; the lacing should be large

and distinct, and the white centers of each feather free from black or brown penciling.

The Golden Wyandotte is marked like the Silver, excepting that the color is golden-bay and black instead of white and black. The White variety is, perhaps, the favorite from the fact that it is not so diffi-



FIG. 6.—Pair of White Wyandottes.

cult to breed to feather, the plumage being pure white throughout. It is for this reason the more practical fowl for the farmer or those who keep poultry for market. The Buff Wyandotte is in color a rich, deep, clear buff, uniform in shade throughout, except the tail, which is of a deeper buff or copperish-bronze color. The Blacks are of a rich, glossy black, with greenish sheen, excepting breast primaries, secondaries, tail and fluff, which are pure black.

The standard weight of cocks is $8\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; hens, $6\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; cockerels, $7\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; and pullets, $5\frac{1}{2}$ pounds.

JAVAS.

This variety is the oldest of the American class, and at one time was considered the most profitable of all breeds. At present Javas are not raised extensively; the more modern or newer breeds have seemingly supplanted them in popularity. There is no reason why this should be so, as they are practical and good general-purpose fowls. In size they are about like the Plymouth Rocks, but differ in general symmetry and appearance. They are good layers and do well in winter, and for table

purposes they make nice eating. They mature early, are good sitters and mothers, and are easily kept in confinement.

There are three varieties of Javas: Black, Mottled, and White. The Black (fig. 7) is more generally seen than the others, though the Mottled



FIG. 7.—Pair of Black Javas.

has of late years been very numerous represented at the shows. The plumage of the Blacks is glossy black throughout; the Mottled (fig. 8) is of broken black and white in wings, tail, and sickles, and the balance of the plumage is evenly intermixed with white and black; the White Java is, as the name implies, pure white throughout. It has a small single comb, standing upright on the head in both male and female. The shanks and toes are free from feathers, yellow in color, with the bottom of feet yellow.

The standard weight of cocks is $9\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; hens, $7\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; cockerels, 8 pounds; and pullets, $6\frac{1}{2}$ pounds.

DOMINIQUES.

Similarity in plumage of the American Dominique and Barred Plymouth Rock has been the price of the former's popularity. The color is grayish-white, each feather regularly crossed with parallel bars of blue-black, producing the effect of a bluish-tinged plumage, the color being the same throughout. The illustration of Barred Plymouth Rock feathers shown in fig. 2 will do equally as well for the markings of the feathers of the Dominiques. They have rose combs, in both male



FIG. 8.—Mottled Java hen.

and female, and bright yellow legs. Those who are partial to their color of plumage will find the Dominiques good birds to keep. They are good layers, hardy, mature early, and dress well for the table.

The standard weight of cocks is $8\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; hens, $6\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; cockerels, $7\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; and pullets, $5\frac{1}{2}$ pounds.

JERSEY BLUES.

The least-known variety of the American class is the Jersey Blue. It is one of the largest breeds of poultry, being in size between the Plymouth Rock and the Light Brahma. Their plumage resembles that of the Andalusian, being blue throughout. Their breast and fluff are light blue; hackle and sickles, very dark blue, approaching black; shanks and toes dark blue, the lower surface of toes lighter in shade, and the nails white. They are not as good layers as are the others of their class, and are hardy and easily kept in confinement. They are not popular for table purposes, preference being given to yellow-skinned and yellow-legged birds.

The standard weight of cocks is 10 pounds; hens, 8 pounds; cockerels, 7 pounds; and pullets, 5 pounds.

BRAHMAS.

The leading variety of the Asiatic class is the Light Brahma (fig. 9). This fowl has a history that would fill pages were it recorded. These are the fowls which caused the "hen fever" of the fifties, about which so much has been written in later years. Their early history is a matter of controversy, the best authorities differing as to their origin.

They were first known as the "Brahma Pootras," "Gray Shanghais," "Chittagongs," "Cochin Chinas," and what not. The early breeder named them according to his fancy for high sounding and sensational names to sell his stock. Fabulous prices were paid for them when the craze for fine poultry was at its height in the early days of the last half of the present century. The standard of the present Brahmas was fixed in 1869, and no deviation from the type then adopted has been made. They have stood high in popular favor since then without abatement; the vast number of breeders who are raising them fully attest their worth as a practical bird to the industry. The Brahma is a characteristic fowl; it is unlike other varieties, and it should not be confounded in shape with the Cochin.

The average Light Brahma male is in height 26 inches; back from the ground, 16 inches; keel from the ground, 8 inches; length of body, front of breast to rear of fluff, 14 inches; height of tail, a trifle over 21 inches; saddle hangers to rear of fluff, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches; eye, from tip of beak, $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches; length of head and beak, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches; breasts to rear of a drop line from point of beak, three-fourths to $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches. As specimens depart from this proportion they become awkward and valueless as exhibition stock, and often also as egg producers. In shape, oblong,

with full, broad, and round breast, carried well forward. The fullness and oblong shape is typical of the Brahma and is characteristic of prolific birds. The curves of neck and back are similar to those of the outlines of an egg.

In plumage the male is pure white, excepting hackle, tail, and flights, which are black, and white striped with black. Any other color but white and black is against the standard-bred bird. The hackle is white with a black stripe extending down the center of each feather and tapering to a point near the extremity (see fig. 10). The tail feathers are black, and sickles are glossy greenish black. The shanks are well



FIG. 9.—Pair of Light Brahmas.

feathered, with the feathering extending down the middle toe; the toe feathering may be white or white sprinkled with black, pure white preferred. A small pea comb (see fig. 9), broad crown, projects over the eyes; bright red face, wattles and ear lobes are essential to a good head. The shanks and toes are bright yellow.

The Brahma female is much like the male in head qualities, having broad comb, projecting well over the eyes, and small pea comb. The head of female should be masculine in appearance. The head is white; hackle, white striped with black, as in male; cape, white and black, but is completely covered by hackle when the bird stands erect; tail,

black, excepting the two highest main tail feathers, which may be edged with white; tail coverts, one or more rows, distinctly covering a part of both sides of the main tail, two rows being preferable, are black edged with white.

The Light Brahmas are valuable birds for the farm. They have always been made to pay for their keep and have seldom been set aside by any who have bred them. They are the largest of domestic poultry and do as well in confinement in small runs as on free range. As layers they will average from twelve to thirteen dozen eggs a year, and lay exceptionally well in winter. Their eggs are large, about 7 to a pound, of a rich brown color and excellent flavor. For table purposes the birds are good; they do not mature as early as do the varieties of the American class, yet they are hardy, and can be raised with as much ease as any of the earlier-maturing varieties. As sitters and mothers they are fair.



FIG. 10.—Hackle feather of Light Brahma cock.

The Dark Brahmas are not so popular as the Light—the difficulty being in breeding them true to feather. Their delicately marked plumage is extremely pretty when bred to standard requirement, but if not so bred it becomes most disagreeable and unsatisfactory to the breeder. The head and neck of a Dark Brahma male are similar to those of the Light, the head being white and the hackle rather more striped. The back is nearly white, a little black appearing here and there. The black should predominate between the shoulders, but is nearly hidden by the hackle flowing over it. The saddle feathers are, like the hackle, silvery white, striped with black, which should be distinct. As the feathers approach the tail the stripes become broader till they merge into the tail coverts, which are rich, glossy

green-black, with a margin or lacing of white. The tail is pure black, with green gloss. The wing coverts are black, forming a distinct black bar across the middle of the wings, while the ends of the secondaries have a large black spot on the end, making the top edges of the wing appear almost black. The remainder of the secondaries are white on the lower half and black on the upper. The flights are all black, except a narrow fringe of white on the lower edge. The breast is black; the thighs and fluff either black, or black very slightly mottled with white.

The shank feathering should correspond with the breast, being black if the latter be black, and slightly mottled with white if not. The shanks are deep yellow, inclining to orange.

The color of females is a white ground, closely penciled with dark steel gray, producing a beautiful effect, frosted or silver gray in appearance. There should be no show of pure white in the plumage except in the margins of the hackles. Unless extreme care be taken in mating, the hens are likely to have a dingy color, and the pullets are apt to have necks almost white for some distance down. These light-necked birds generally breed to worse, but the evil may be remedied by choosing birds for breeding whose heads are distinctly marked. The shape and character of the markings of the Dark Brahma pullets also vary.

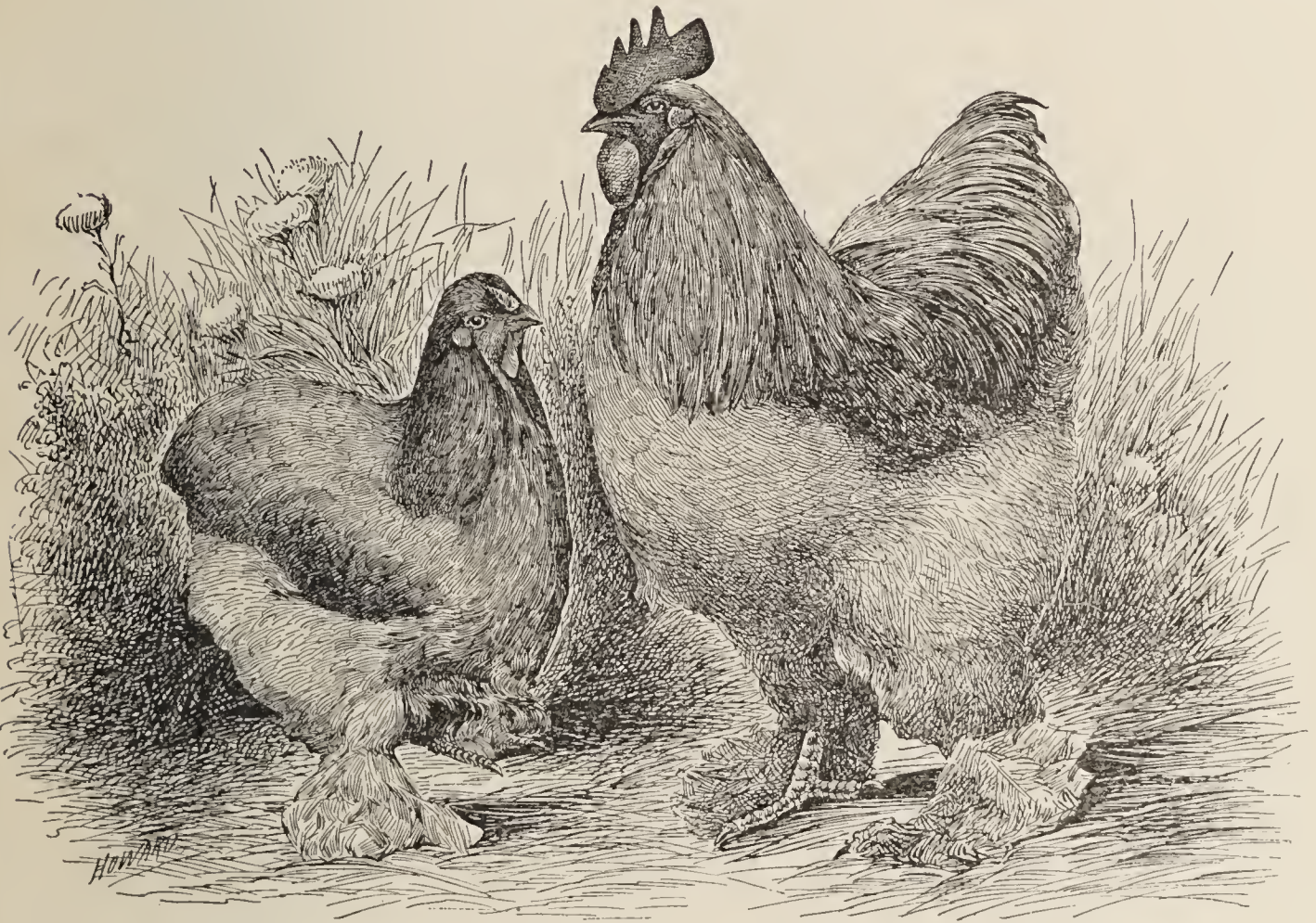


FIG. 11.—Pair of Buff Cochins.

They should be medium-sized, so that the pencilings can be clearly discerned at a short distance. A great point in regard to color and marking in Brahma pullets is that it should be uniform over the body, and the hackles should be silvery white, heavily striped with rich black, and the shank feathering penciled same as body.

For practical purposes the Dark Brahmas are not to be commended as highly as the Light. The close breeding for points in feathers is likely to interfere with their productiveness, yet with proper attention and care they can be bred profitably as well as for beauty.

The standard weight of Light Brahma cocks is 12 pounds; hens, 9½ pounds; cockerels, 10 pounds; and pullets, 8 pounds. The standard weight of Dark Brahma cocks is 11 pounds; hens, 8½ pounds; cockerels, 9 pounds; and pullets, 7 pounds.

COCHINS.

The four varieties of Cochins are very popular with breeders. They are second to the Brahmas in the meat breeds, weighing but a pound lighter than the Light Brahma. Old and experienced breeders of Cochins are pronounced in praise of their qualities as profitable fowls. They are hardy, good winter layers of rich, brown, medium-sized eggs, and fairly good table fowls. The chicks grow well and develop rapidly under proper care.

The Buff variety (fig. 11) is the most generally bred; their color tone offers an attraction to fanciers that is hard to resist. Both male and



FIG. 12.—Back view of Buff Cochin cock, showing full feathering.

female are of a rich, deep, clear buff, uniform in shade throughout except the tail, which should be a deeper buff or copperish bronze, under-color same as surface color, but of lighter shade and should extend to the skin. In breeding select females as near as possible to the desired shade of buff, as free from dark or white in wing and tail, and of as even a color as can be. To such females mate a cock of deeper shade, with some little black in wing, and tail of deep buff of a coppery luster. This mating will produce

good results in cockerels and pullets. The heavy leg and foot feathering so characteristic of the breed should have constant care and attention. While the feathering should be abundant, all semblance to vulture hock, or stiff feathering, should be avoided.

The Partridge Cochin (fig. 13) is a beautiful fowl yet difficult to breed, and in plumage is much after the pattern of the Dark Brahma, the color being red and brown, instead of the steel-gray effect of the latter. The head of male, in color, is bright red; hackle, bright red or orangered, with a distinct black stripe down the center of each feather; saddle feathers same as hackle; breast and body, rich deep black; wing bows, red;

primaries, black on inside web, with a bay edging on the outside web; secondaries, black on the inside web and rich bay on the outside web, terminating with greenish-black at the end of each feather; wing coverts, greenish-black, forming a well-defined bar of that color across the wing when folded; tail, black; sickles, coverts, and lesser coverts, glossy greenish-black; the latter may be edged with red; thighs, black;



FIG. 13.—Partridge Cochin hen.

shanks, yellow, and well covered with black or brownish feathers, the middle toes being also well feathered.

The female is the prettier of the two. Her head is small and of a rich brown plumage, with a stout, well-curved beak, yellow in color. Her eyes are bay and mild in expression. The head is ornamented with a small single comb, set perfectly straight upon the head and bright red in color. The wattles are small, well rounded, and fine in texture; the ear lobes are well developed and are also fine in texture.

The neck is neatly curved, with abundant hackle flowing well over the shoulders. The plumage is bright red or orange red, with a broad black stripe down the middle of each feather. The black stripe in a good feather should run to a point near the end of the feather. This stripe should be free from penciling, but the standard permits a slight penciling of the black. (See fig. 14.)

A good back and cushion help to make the bird. Her back should be broad and flat, the broader the better, and the cushion should rise with a gentle convex curve and partially cover the tail. The plumage of back and cushion is a reddish-brown in color. Each feather is penciled with a darker brown; the outlines of the penciling conform to the shape of the feather. The breast is one of the most important points of a good hen, and should be broad and massive. The plumage is of the same reddish-brown color as the back. The penciling on the breast

is perhaps a little more distinct and open than on the back; the outlines of the penciling should be sharp and conform to the shape of the feather.

The body is broad and deep behind and of the same plumage as the breast. The fluff is very abundant, covering the posterior portion of the bird and stand-



FIG. 14.—Feathers of Partridge Cochinchina hen.

ing out about the thighs. Wings are small and the primaries fold closely under the secondaries; the bows are covered by the breast feathers and the fluff conceals the points. The primaries are very dark brown or blackish-brown in color; the inner web of the secondaries is a blackish-brown and the outer web is a blackish-brown penciled with a lighter brown. The coverts are similar in color and penciling to the plumage of the breast.

The tail is small and short, is carried almost horizontally, and is partly concealed by the cushion. In color it is black, except the two main tail feathers, which are penciled. The tail coverts are penciled same as breast and body. Thighs are large and well covered with soft feathers; the feathers on the lower part curve inward around the hock and hide the joint on the outside. The feathering of the thighs is of the same shade and color as that of the body. Shanks are short and yellow, and heavily covered with feathers of same color as thighs. The toes are well spread and yellow, the outer and middle toes being feathered throughout their entire length.

Black Cochins (fig. 15) are much more easily raised than are either of the varieties thus far described. Being of one color, the care bestowed in breeding particolored or penciled birds is not necessary, and the time may be spent in furthering their general utility in egg production. A one-colored bird is the more practical bird for the farmer and market poulterer. The Black Cochin is of a rich glossy black plumage throughout. The White Cochin is pure white in plumage.

The standard weight of Buff, Partridge, and White Cochin cocks is 11 pounds; hens, $8\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; cockerels, 9 pounds; and pullets, 7 pounds. Black Cochins are of the same weight, excepting cocks, which should weigh $10\frac{1}{2}$ pounds.



FIG. 15.—Trio of Black Cochins.

LANGSHANS.

Langshans are the smallest and most active of the Asiatic class. They are practical in more senses than one, and their prolific laying and other excellent qualities make them profitable for the farmer and market poultryman. They constitute one of the oldest breeds of poultry and have always been held in popular esteem. The shape of the Langshan is distinct from that of the Brahma or Cochin, and should not be confused with either of the last-named breeds. Fig. 16 shows the accepted contour of the Langshans, and a comparison with the birds in figs. 9 and 11 shows at a glance the characteristics of the Langshan as compared with the other Asiatics. Langshans have white flesh and dark legs, while the others are yellow-skinned and yellow-

legged. The quality of the flesh of the Langshans is excellent, being fine grained, tender, and nicely flavored. As layers they rank among the best, averaging from twelve to thirteen dozen a year, and as winter layers they are to be recommended. The chicks are hardy and mature early. Langshans are good sitters and mothers, being of gentle disposition; they are easily kept, either in confinement or on free range. Being excellent foragers, they are ideal fowls for the farm, and will gather during the year a considerable proportion of their food.

The Langshan is a stylish, medium-sized bird, not overgrown or gawky in appearance, of active nature, and lively disposition. Many confound the Black Langshan with the Black Cochin. This need not be, as the



FIG. 16.—Pair of Black Langshans.

following comparison between the two varieties shows: The Black Cochin is square in shape, with heavy-looking neck and legs, plenty of fluff and leg feathering, cushion rising from middle of back to tail, tail short, small, and almost concealed by cushion; neck, breast, cushion, and tail all represented by convex lines. Langshan head, small for size of body, comb medium-sized, well up in front, and arch shaped; Cochin head, larger than that of the Langshan and not so arched over the eye; comb smaller, low in front, and almost straight on top of serrations. Langshan back, short and concave; that of the Cochin, medium length, slightly convex, and large convex cushion. Langshan fluff, moderate and close; that of the Cochin extremely full and loose. Langshan wings somewhat large and inclined downward, quite prominent at

shoulders; the Cochin wings smaller and almost hidden by the fluffy plumage of cushion and fluff. Langshan breast full, deep, and carried well forward; Cochin breast not so full and deep, but broader. Langshan legs medium in length, small bone, long tapering toes, color of shank, bluish black showing pink between scales, which are nearly black; Cochin legs shorter, stouter, larger bone, toes shorter and stouter, color of shanks black or yellowish black.

There are two varieties of Langshans—the Black and the White. The Black in plumage of neck, back, saddle, sickles, a glossy metallic black, with greenish sheen; breast, primaries, secondaries, tail, fluff, shank, and toe feathers, black. The undercolor is black or dark slate. The White Langshan is pure white throughout.

The standard weight of cocks for both varieties is 10 pounds; hens, 7 pounds; cockerels, 8 pounds; and pullets, 6 pounds.

LEGHORNS.

Leghorns are the best known of the egg-producing varieties or Mediterranean class. They are the premiers in laying and the standard by which the prolificacy of other breeds is judged. As to the origin of the Leghorns there are differences of opinion, and there is but little information to be found anywhere concerning their early history. It is generally conceded that a race of fowls bearing a close resemblance in many respects to the Leghorn has existed in Italy and other parts of the Continent of Europe for a long period. That this race has been widely disseminated admits also of little doubt, inasmuch as at the present day it is known in Denmark and other countries as the Italian. There seems to be good ground for the statement that Leghorns were first introduced into America from Italy. The story goes that as early as 1834 a vessel from Leghorn brought to this country as a part of its cargo a small shipment of fowls, which were at once named "Leghorns." They immediately became popular, their prolific laying and nonsitting qualities being recognized at this early date.

White and Brown Leghorns were the first varieties known. Modern breeders are responsible for some of the subvarieties of the breed; and, in point of color at least, exhibition birds of to-day, even of the older varieties, vary considerably from those seen at the present time in Italy.

The Leghorn fowl holds the same place among poultry that the Jersey holds among cattle. The question of profit in poultry has been decided in favor of egg-producing breeds. Leghorns are lively, active, and of a restless disposition, the best of foragers, and will pick up a good part of their living during the year. They are light eaters and the cost of raising them to maturity is about one-half that of the Asiatic varieties. They mature early, feather quickly, the pullets often begin laying when 4 months old, and cockerels crow at the same age. They are the best layers, averaging between 150 and 200 eggs per year. Their eggs

are pure white in color, and weigh about 10 to the pound. As table fowls they are fairly good. By many they are considered excellent. The only thing that can be said against them is that they are small in size. Altogether, they are one of the most profitable breeds of poultry that can be kept upon the farm, and the cheapness of their keeping will allow the raising of two Leghorns for the cost of one Asiatic. They must be warmly housed in winter to lay well and to protect their pendulous wattles from frostbite.



FIG. 17.—Single-comb White Leghorn cock.

In shape a Leghorn cock (fig. 17) should be graceful; body, round and plump, broad at the shoulders, and tapering toward the tail. The tail should be well balanced on a fair length of shank and thigh, the length of leg giving the bird its sprightly and proud carriage. Closeness of feathering adds to the general shape and secures a freedom from angles which always proclaims the pure bred, typical specimen. The breast should be full, beautifully curved, rather prominent, and carried well forward. Neck, long, well arched, and carried erect; back, of medium length, with saddle rising in a sharp, concave sweep to the tail; tail, large, full, carried upright; the full, flowing tail, and long, well-curved

sickles are characteristics of the bird that are much thought of. The wing is long, well folded, and tightly carried. Hackle and saddle feathers, long and abundant and flowing well over the shoulder and saddle. The legs are bright yellow and free from feathers; toes also yellow, but a dark shade is allowable. The head is the prettiest portion of the bird, being short and deep; yellow beak, full, bright red eyes, and bright red face. The comb is single, of medium size, perfectly straight and upright upon the head, free from side sprigs, deeply serrated with five or six points, and bright red. The comb should extend well back over the head, with no tendency to follow the shape of the neck. Ear lobes, white or creamy white.

The Leghorn hen in many respects resembles the cock, excepting carriage of comb and sexual differences. In shape and carriage the hen is even more graceful and sprightly than the cock, very close in feather, and rather small in body, though somewhat long in back. Her breast is full, very round, and carried high; legs fairly long, and shanks thin; tail carried closely and well up. The general carriage should be upright. Her comb is the marvel of her beauty; it is single and falls gracefully to one side, but not in a limp manner, or so as to obscure the sight. Fig. 19 shows an ideal comb of Leghorn female. Legs, comb, and face are the same color as in the male, but the ear lobe is much smaller.

There are six standard varieties of Leghorns: Black, Brown, Buff, Dominique, Silver Duckwing, and White.

The Black Leghorn is a popular bird, and a favorite with those who are partial to its color of plumage. The Black Leghorn is mistaken by many for the Black Minorca, but is quite different in type. The Minorca is larger in size, has a longer body, larger comb, and dark slate or nearly black shanks and toes. The plumage of the Black Leghorn is a rich glossy black throughout. Comb, face, and wattles, bright red; ear lobes white; and shanks yellow, or yellowish black.

The Brown Leghorns (fig. 20) are one of the prettiest, as well as the most commonly bred of the Leghorn varieties. They are the most diffi-



FIG. 18.—Head of Single-comb Brown Leghorn cock.



FIG. 19.—Head of Single-comb Brown Leghorn hen.

cult of all to breed to feather. They have merited the confidence of poultry lovers for a long time and their hardy constitutions have thwarted rough usage and promiscuous interbreeding to efface their characteristics. They are a fixed breed and their merits are noticeable from the newly hatched chick to the oldest specimen; they are stamped with the indelible marks of royalty only to be found in a thoroughbred.

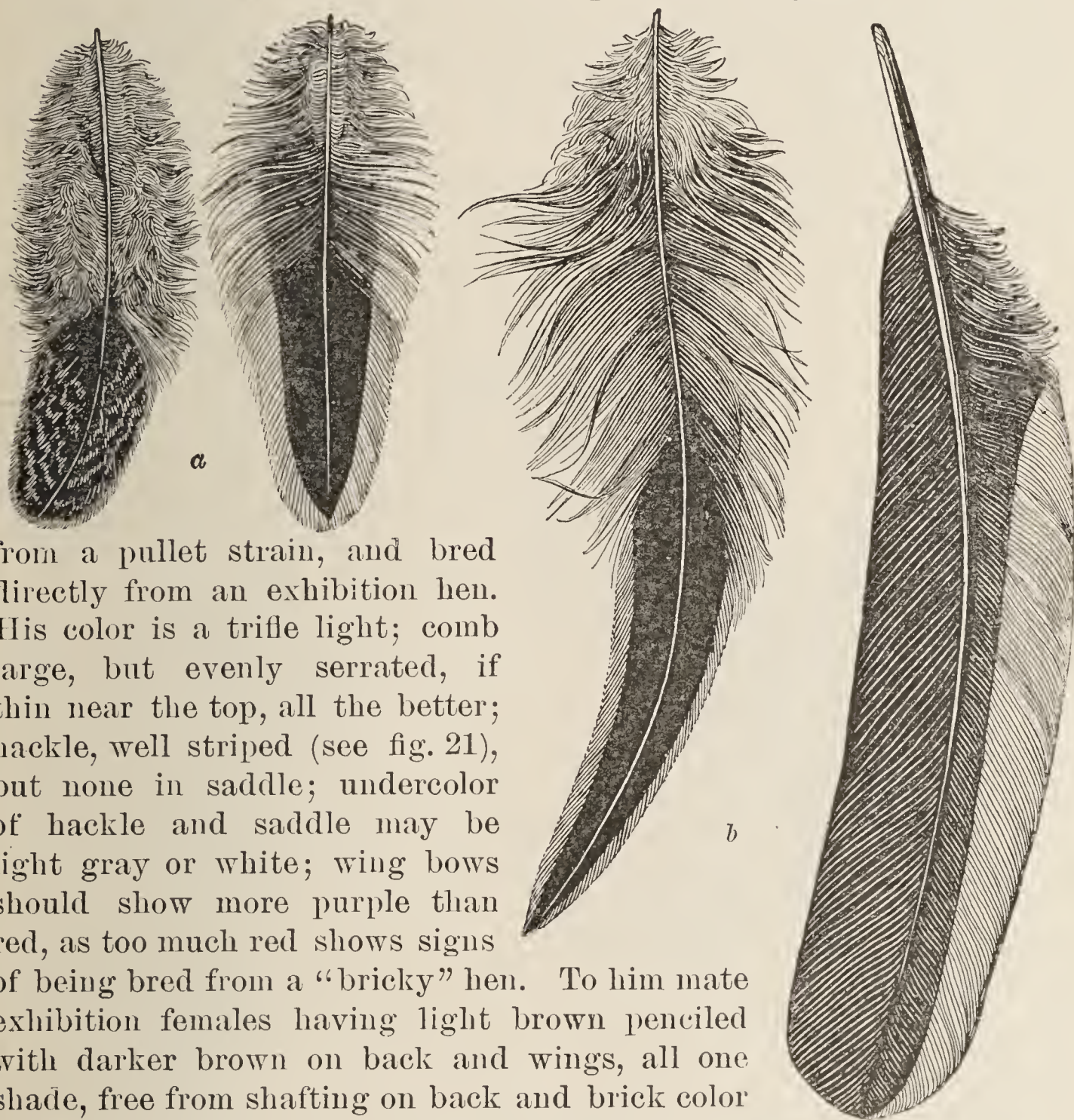
In mating Brown Leghorns opposites must be considered. Should the male be fine in all points except comb or leg, select females strong in



FIG. 20.—Single-comb Brown Leghorn cock.

this point to mate with him. The most successful breeders use a double mating, one pen to produce exhibition birds of each sex. Fine birds, both cockerels and pullets, can be bred from the same pen by using slightly different types of females. The same male often will breed the finest of both exhibition cockerels and pullets, but it is a rare case to have a female breed both sexes of a remarkable quality. When two pens are used, at the head of the pen mated to produce the cockerels place a fully developed cock with no serious fault, standard color, especially strong in comb, lobe, hackle, and saddle, a dark undercolor

preferred. To him mate hens of a shade darker than standard, with small, evenly serrated, standing combs; a trifle brick color on wings is no objection, as it will give a brighter color on wing bows of the cockerels. Shafting on the back will also help the black stripe in the saddles. The pullets raised from this pen will be too dark for exhibition, but they will be a great help in breeding cockerels the next season. The male at the head of the pen mated to produce the pullets should be



from a pullet strain, and bred directly from an exhibition hen. His color is a trifle light; comb large, but evenly serrated, if thin near the top, all the better; hackle, well striped (see fig. 21), but none in saddle; undercolor of hackle and saddle may be light gray or white; wing bows should show more purple than red, as too much red shows signs of being bred from a "bricky" hen. To him mate exhibition females having light brown penciled with darker brown on back and wings, all one shade, free from shafting on back and brick color on wings. These hens should have the large comb, lying over, but firm and strong on the head, so it does not lie close to the eye and face. The cockerels raised from this mating are the birds to use for breeding females the next year. By breeding Brown Leghorns in this manner we have two distinct lines of blood, and they should never be crossed.

The Buff Leghorn (fig. 22) is the most recent acquisition to the Mediterranean class. It is a beautiful bird, and one that will win its way wherever bred. Buff-colored birds have many admirers, and those who have bred them are pronounced in praise of their qualities. Besides

FIG. 21.—Feathers of Brown Leghorns; *a*, back and hackle of female; *b*, hackle and wing feather of male.

having the general characteristics of the Leghorn type, the Buff Leghorn cock has rich buff-colored hackle and saddle, in shade from lemon to cinnamon, but of even, solid color in keeping with the rest of the plumage; the back and the wing bow exactly match the plumage; tail, of the same general tint, but richer, deeper buff is preferable, the standard giving for tail a rich, deep buff or copperish-bronze. The remainder of the plumage is of a slightly lighter shade, but even in color throughout, with no semblance of a patchy or mottled plumage. White and black feathers in plumage are objectionable; solid white or solid black feathers will disqualify the bird. The hen is of the same color as the cock.

Dominique Leghorns are not so generally known. Their color is much like that of the American Dominique and Barred Plymouth

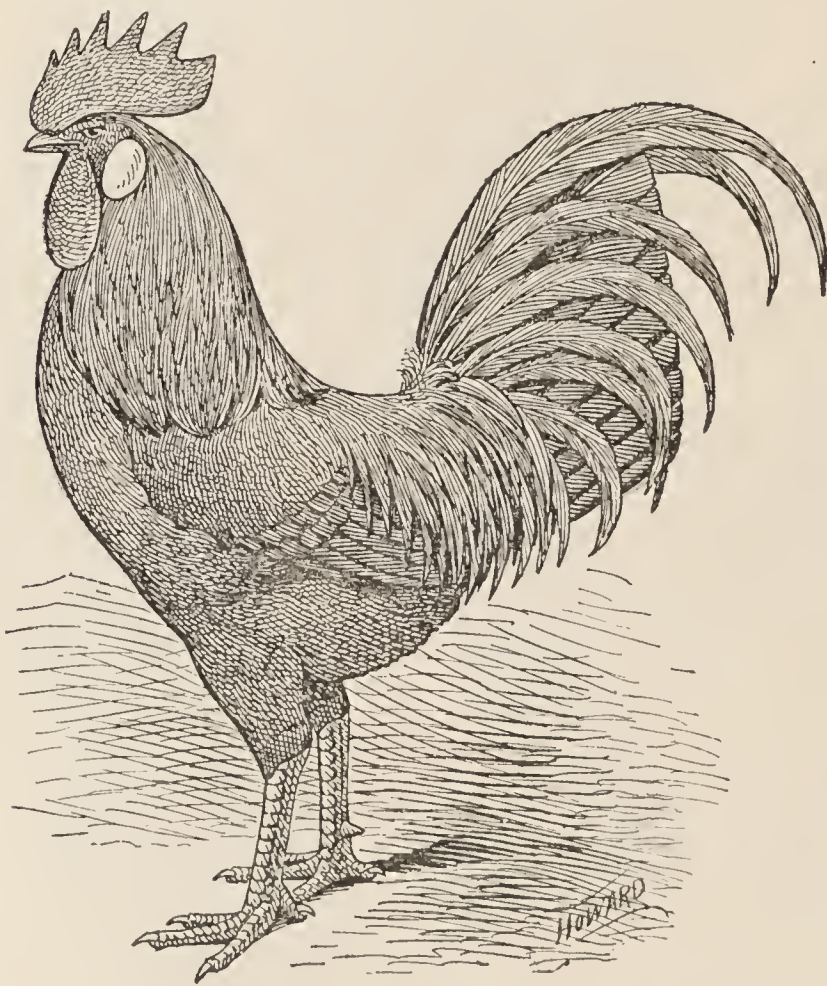


FIG. 22.—Buff Leghorn cockerel.

Rock, and is what is known as “Cuckoo” by English breeders. The body color is grayish white, each feather regularly crossed with parallel bars of blue-black, producing the effect of a bluish-tinged plumage. This color is the same throughout. The ground color of each feather is a clear, light bluish gray. The shanks and toes are bright yellow and eyes bright red.

Silver Duckwing Leghorns are not generally bred in this country, though they are frequently seen in the showrooms.

They are considered as

profitable as any of the other Leghorn varieties, and in point of beauty they are very interesting and fascinating. They take the name “Duckwing” from the similarity of the steel blue wing bar to that of the Mallard or wild duck, the name being first given to a variety of games—the Silver Duckwing Game. The hackle and saddle feathers of a Silver Duckwing Leghorn cock are pure silvery white, without the slightest straw or creamy tinge, with a narrow black stripe along the center of the lower hackle feathers. Back, saddle, wing bow and wing bay, pure white; breast, under parts, wing bar, and tail, dense lustrous black. The Silver Duckwing Leghorn hen has a silvery gray hackle, with a narrow black stripe through the center of each feather. The breast is light salmon, shading off to gray toward the sides; the body color when viewed at a short distance should appear gray, with a

faint bluish tint all over. A tendency to ruddy gray, either in ground color or penciling, is objectionable. The tail is black or dark brown, except the two upper feathers, which are light gray. The penciling or markings are irregular or wavy.

The White Leghorn, like the Brown, is one of the most generally bred of the Leghorn varieties. It is, no doubt, the most advantageous to breed for profit, and the easiest to raise on the farm. Being of one color in plumage these birds are more successfully raised and cared for than the parti-colored varieties. Their plumage is pure white throughout, and feathers other than white will disqualify them. It has been a matter of much speculation as to which variety of Leghorns is most prolific in egg production. This is a difficult question to properly adjust to the satisfaction of the specialty breeders, but from a conservative standpoint it is generally considered that the Whites have slightly the advantage over the others. Phenomenal individual egg records have been made by almost all varieties, but the above opinion is advanced from the general results obtained from various sources.

There are subvarieties both in Brown and White Leghorns—the Rose-comb Brown and the Rose-comb White. The only distinguishing difference between the last named and the other varieties is in the comb. The Rose-comb White and Rose-comb Brown Leghorns have a small rose comb (see fig. 23), square in front, firm and even upon the head, tapering evenly from front to rear, without inclining to one side, the top comparatively flat and covered with small points, or corrugations, terminating in a well-developed spike in the rear. There is no standard weight given for Leghorns.



FIG. 23.—Rose-comb White Leghorn cockerel.

MINORCAS.

The Minorcas belong to the Mediterranean class, and they are placed next to the Leghorns in laying qualities. They are in appearance very similar to the Leghorns. Their general outline is, in fact, that of the latter, but of more length of body and heavier in mold. Indeed, they are the only variety of the Mediterranean class that has a given weight which approaches that of the Wyandotte, being only one-half pound lighter. The origin of the Minorcas, like that of so many others of our profitable poultry, is much in doubt. Some are of the opinion that they originally came from Minorca, one of the Balearic Isles in the Mediterranean Sea, while others contend they are a variety of the

Black Spanish. Be that as it may, they are one of the most profitable breeds of poultry for the farm.

The Minorcas are good for table purposes, the flesh being white or light-colored, and fine-grained. Their chief advantage is their egg production. They are nonsitters, and year-around layers. As winter layers they are exceptionally good when kept under fairly favorable circumstances. While the Leghorn surpasses them in the number of



FIG. 24.—Black Minorca cockerel.

eggs laid, the Minorca's eggs are larger, and equal the output in bulk. Their eggs are white, and average eight to the pound. They lay from twelve to fifteen dozen a year. Being of an active, restless disposition they keep in splendid condition and make good foragers. For suburban poultry keeping they are very practical birds, and net good results to the keeper. They are hardy, easily raised, and mature quickly.

The Minorca fowl is large in outline, well bodied; stands well up on its legs; has a broad chest, and a long, flat back, with tail carried upright. Many breeders dispute as to the carriage of the tail. The standard says "upright", while the preference is almost universally expressed by breeders that it should be carried "well back". The upright position gives the tail the Leghorn type (see fig. 17), while the typical Minorca differs somewhat from it by being more horizontal, as shown in fig. 24. The body of the Minorca male is long, square in front, tapering from front to rear. When standing erect, the body of male is at an angle of nearly forty-five degrees. Thighs are stout; shanks, medium in length, stout in bone, and in color dark slate or nearly black; comb, single, large, perfectly straight and upright, evenly serrated, and extending well over back of head. The comb of the Minorca is larger and more bulky than that of the Leghorn. Wattles are thin and pendulous, corresponding with size of comb; ear lobes, pure white. The female is in body of the same general appearance as the male, rather long, broad, and deep. Her comb is single, large, and drooping to one side; like comb of male, her comb is perceptibly larger than that of the Leghorn female. Black Minorcas are in plumage a rich, glossy black throughout, and gray tips are considered serious defects. The White Minorca is as popular as the Black, and takes the same position as does the White Leghorn in its class. The standard qualifications are equal for the two except in color, and that must be pure white throughout, feathers other than white disqualifying; the other qualities are equal, as to profitableness, between the two varieties. The comb, face, and wattles are bright red, free from white in face; eyes are dark hazel or red.

Before concluding in regard to Minorcas, it is worthy of note that the latest acquisition to the breed is the Rose-comb Black Minorca. The only objection that has ever been raised against the varieties of the Mediterranean class is their susceptibility to frostbite of the comb. Their combs are so large, that continued cold or exposure is sure to result in this injury. To obviate this one defect, if it may be so termed, in this valuable class of birds, has been the purpose of breeders in producing a bird that possesses the other qualifications, but with low rose comb. There are two standard varieties of Minorcas—the Black and the White. The Rose-comb Black Minorca is not recognized as a standard variety as yet, but indications point to its admission as such in the near future. Many good specimens have been bred and exhibited at the recent shows, and success in making this variety seems assured. The head of the Rose-comb Black Minorca male should be medium in length; beak, stout and black; eyes, dark red; face, smooth and red; comb, rose, straight, and set close and even on the head. In size the comb should be between that of the Wyandotte and the Leghorn; wattles, medium in length and not so large as in single-comb variety; ear lobes, pure white, large, smooth, and almond shaped. The head of female is similar to that of the male—medium in size; face,

red; comb, small and even on the head; wattles, medium in size, thin, and bright red; ear lobes, pure white, large, and even.

The standard weight of a Minorca cock is 8 pounds; hen, $6\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; cockerel, $6\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; and pullet, $5\frac{1}{2}$ pounds.

ANDALUSIANS.

The Andalusian (fig. 25) is one of the prettiest of the feathered race, being of a beautiful light and dark blue plumage. It is called the Blue Andalusian, and is the only variety of its breed. It is not as popular in this country as it should be, owing to the sentiment against white skin and blue shanks. English and French poultrymen prefer these

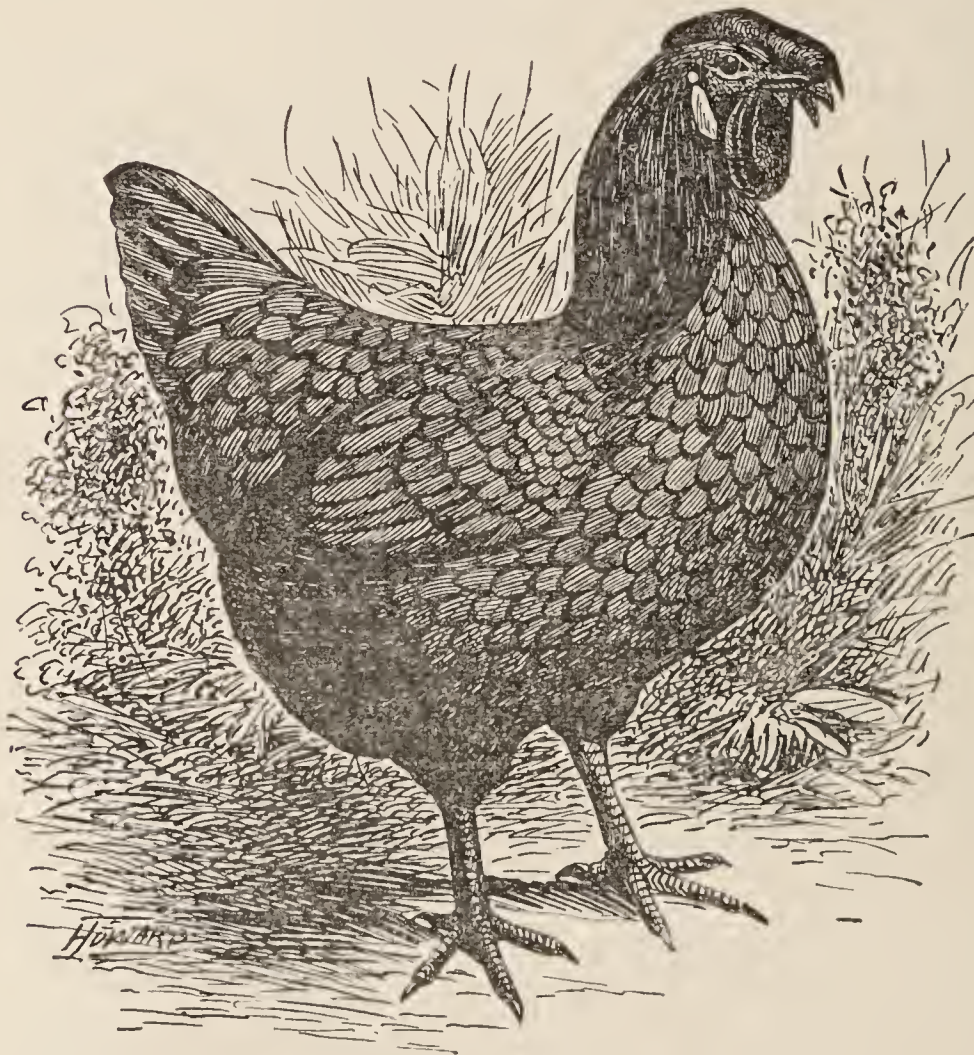


FIG. 25.—Blue Andalusian hen.

qualities in a bird, and with them it is very popular. The hens are nonsitters and splendid layers of large white eggs, equaling in size those of the Minorcas. Specimens of their eggs have been seen in competition and have won the award of merit for size and weight. The chicks are hardy, mature early, and the pullets begin laying when five or six months old.

For farm purposes they rank with the Leghorn and the

Minorca, the preference being only in the color of their plumage. For fancy purposes they are an ideal bird on account of their beauty. Their general characteristics are those of the Leghorn. The hackle and saddle feathers are dark blue, approaching black; breast a lighter shade of blue, each feather having a well-defined lacing of a darker shade; body and fluff, similar in color to breast, but somewhat darker; primaries, light blue; secondaries and wing coverts, dark blue; wing bows, darker blue, approaching black; tail and sickle feathers, dark blue, approaching black; shanks and toes, slaty blue.

No standard weight is given for Andalusians; their average size is that of the Leghorn.

BLACK SPANISH.

The Black Spanish fowls (fig. 26) constitute one of the oldest varieties of domestic poultry. Their name has been identified with the industry for hundreds of years, and their practical worth on the farm has long been recognized. Their haughty bearing, large red comb and wattles, and the white face and lobes peculiar to the breed, contrasting with their glossy black plumage, render them most striking birds.

White-faced Black Spanish have long been favorably known for their exceptionally fine laying qualities. The oldest of the nonsitting varieties, they still maintain an unsurpassed record. The pullets are early layers, averaging 150 to 180 eggs per year; the hens begin some-



FIG. 26.—Pair of White-faced Black Spanish.

what later, after molting, but compensate for any loss in number by the increased size of the eggs. Hens and pullets alike are well above the average for winter laying. Their eggs are large and white and of good flavor. The white face is a distinguishing feature, and should be long, smooth, free from wrinkles, rising well over the eyes in an arched form, extending toward the back of the head and to the base of the beak, covering the cheeks and joining the wattles and ear lobes; the greater the depth of surface the better. It should be pure white in color. The color of plumage throughout is rich, glossy black, and any gray is considered a serious defect. Shanks and toes are blue, or dark leaden blue. Comb is single and bright red in color; wattles, bright red, except the inside of the upper part, which is white; ear lobes, pure white.

No standard weight is given for Black Spanish; they equal in size the Leghorns and Andalusians.

WHITE-CRESTED BLACK POLISH.

One of the oldest varieties of poultry is the Polish (fig. 27), its ancestry being traced as far back as the sixteenth century. Among the varieties mentioned in those early days was the "Wooly" fowl, similar to the Silky fowl of to-day; mention in history is also made of the "Frizzled" fowl, the "Persian" fowl, the "Turkish" fowl, and the



FIG. 27.—Pair of White-crested Black Polish.

"Crested" fowl. The latter is described as being a fowl with a lark's crest. Another variety is known as the "Patavinian" fowl, which is believed to be the progenitor of the Polish variety. The cock is described as exceedingly beautiful, being richly decorated with five colors, black, white, green, red, and ocher; the body is black, the neck covered with white feathers, and the wings and back partly black

and partly green; the tail is the same, but the roots of the feathers whitish, and some of the flight feathers also white. The eyes are surrounded with red circles, the comb is very small, the bill and feet yellow, and the head is adorned with a beautiful crest. In the hen there is no white except the white pellicle at the opening of the ears. She is altogether of a greenish-black color, with yellow feet and a very small comb, slightly tinged with red.

The general characteristics of the Polish are those of medium-sized fowls, slightly larger than the Hamburgs; a full, round breast, carried well forward; the neck of the cock carried back and beautifully arched; a perfectly straight back, broad at the shoulders and narrowing rapidly to the tail; large and closely folded wings; a large, well-expanded, upright tail, and in the cock furnished with an abundance of tail coverts and sickle feathers; shanks of a bluish color, in all varieties but the White-crested Black, in which they are of dark slate or nearly black; and, above all, a large crest and leaf comb. The crest of the cock is composed of narrow feathers, something like those which form the hackle of the neck and saddle. They should rise well in front, so as not to obstruct the sight, and fall over to the back and sides in a flowing, even mass. If they fall forward, as is sometimes the case, they both obstruct the sight and are liable to get wet when the bird drinks. Such a crest, also, is hollow in the center and loses much of its beauty. The crest of the hen is formed of feathers growing upward and turning in at the extremities, and should be large and globular in form and compact in character, with no sign of parting. The larger the crest the better, provided it is of good shape; but a close, compact, well-formed crest is to be preferred to one that is larger, but of loose texture and falling in all directions. The comb is peculiar, and belongs to the class of combs which have a fancied resemblance to a leaf, and are designated leaf combs. It is better described, however, as two fleshy horns diverging like the letter V, the upper extremities retreating into the crest. The smaller the comb the better, and if wholly wanting, except when removed by design or accident, it is not regarded as a disqualification.

Polish chickens are bred extensively in this country and by some are considered practical for general purposes, but, while some breeders may secure good results, the Polish is not to be fully recommended as a general-purpose fowl. They are considered more as fancy birds, and are generally bred for pleasure and the showroom. Their large crests are against them, hindering their vision and causing them to become listless, inactive, and suspicious. Extra care must be given to be fairly successful in raising them, and their houses and coops must be kept absolutely dry—the least water in their crests is likely to result fatally to them.

They are fairly good layers of medium-sized eggs, and are nonsitters. For table purposes they are considered good, their flesh being fine-grained, tender, and sweet.

Of the varieties of Polish, the White-crested Black is the most popular. The color of their plumage is a rich glossy black throughout, with the exception of the crest, which is pure white. The shanks and toes are black, or dark slate; comb and wattles are bright red and ear lobes are white.

The Golden and Silver varieties are beautifully marked in plumage. In the Golden the feathers are marked with rich golden bay and



FIG. 28.—Bearded Silver Polish hen.

spangled or laced with black. The feathers of the Silver are silvery white, instead of the golden bay, and spangled or laced with black. The illustration (fig. 28) shows the general markings of the feathers. The White Polish is pure white throughout the plumage.

There are two distinct subbreeds of Polish, the plain and bearded. The latter has a thick, full beard, running back of the eye in a handsome curve, and in color corresponding with the balance of the plumage. The eight varieties of Polish are, White crested Black, Golden, Silver,

White, Bearded Golden, Bearded Silver, Bearded White, and Buff-laced.

No standard weight is given for Polish; they are of medium size, about that of Leghorns.

HAMBURGS.

Hamburgs (figs. 29 and 30) are in the front ranks of egg producers and are in general appearance much like Leghorns. There are six varieties of Hamburgs: The Golden-spangled, Silver-spangled, Golden-penciled, Silver-penciled, Black, and White. They are all very pretty birds and seldom fail to prove attractive and profitable to the average breeder and fancier. Hamburgs are economical fowls to keep; besides being light eaters and great foragers, they are prolific layers and nonsitters. The



FIG. 29.—Pair of Silver-spangled Hamburgs.

only thing against them is the smallness of their eggs. They lay a pretty, white-shelled egg, but smaller in size than those of the Leghorn. There are some which lay larger eggs than others, and by careful selection from year to year of the birds which lay the largest eggs, this defect may be remedied and the size of the eggs improved.

The Silver-spangled Hamburg is, perhaps, the most beautiful as well as the most popular variety of the Hamburgs. Its proud carriage, royal decoration, and graceful and symmetrical form command attention whenever seen. Breeders of Hamburgs universally adopt the following as a standard for the breed: Comb square at front, tapering nicely into a long spike, full of points by no means plain, firmly and evenly set on the head; face, red; ear lobes, moderate size, round as possible, and clear white; legs, leaden blue; carriage, graceful; plumage, very profuse. Cocks—Silver-spangled: Color, clear, silvery-white ground, every feather tipped or spangled, the breast as bold as possible, but showing the spangle, the bars of the wing regular and bold; neck,

back, and saddle, nicely tipped; bow well marked (by no means cloudy, brown or brassy); back, as green as possible. Golden-spangled: Color, very black and rich ground, the back glossy green; the neck, back, and saddle, nicely striped; bow of wing well marked. Hens—Silver-spangled: The white clear and silvery; the spangles large, green as possible, distinct and clear. Golden-spangled: Ground, rich; clear spangles, large and distinct.

The feather markings of the penciled varieties differ greatly from those of the spangled; the latter being commonly called “moon-eyed” from the round or oval appearance of the spangles, while the markings of the penciled varieties are in parallel bars of reddish bay or black,



FIG. 30.—Black Hamburg Hen.

or clear silvery white and black, as the case may be. White and Black Hamburgs are solid white or solid black in plumage.

No standard weight is given for Hamburgs.

REDCAPS.

This variety (fig. 31) is the largest of the Hamburg group, its size equaling that of the Minorca. Redcaps are an old breed, mention of them being made by some of the old authors. They are not as popular as the Hamburgs, there be-

ing difficulty in breeding them with good combs and clearly defined plumage. The large comb stands in their way as popular birds, and unless it is square and even, it makes a miserable sight.

Redcaps are hardy and mature early, and, like Hamburgs, are excellent layers. For market purposes they are good, the size and quality of flesh being recommendations for popular favor. They are reputed to be nonsitters, though occasionally they are known to sit and hatch broods.

The comb is rose, the larger the better, not overhanging the eyes, square in front, and uniform on each side. It must be firm and even upon the head, without inclining to one side, the top covered with small points, or corrugations, terminating at the rear in a well-developed, straight spike, and bright red in color. Wattles and ear lobes are also bright red. In plumage the male and female are red and black; the

head is red, with blue-black hackle, each feather edged with red; the back is red and black, and breast purplish black. The shanks are slate colored.

The standard weight of cocks is $7\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; hens, $6\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; cockerels, 6 pounds; and pullets, 5 pounds.

CAMPINES.

Campines belong to the Hamburg group. They are an old variety, but have only been recently admitted to the standard. The first mention of them was made in 1828, when they were referred to as a small variety of fowls imported from Holland, called "Everyday hens," or "Everlasting layers."

This name is still applied to them on their native soil. Campines are rated as extraordinary layers in Holland, their native country, but their introduction into this country has been so recent that a comparison with the other egg-laying breeds cannot be satisfactorily estimated, but those who keep them speak highly of their laying qualities. They much resemble the Hamburgs, so much so that many think they are the same breed of birds.



FIG. 31.—Head of Redcap cock.

They differ, however, from Hamburgs in the comb, having a single comb, while the comb of the Hamburg is rose. There are two varieties of Campines, the Golden and the Silver. The color of the Golden is a rich golden bay in the neck plumage and a darker yellow for the body color. The Silver Campines are silvery-white and black throughout their plumage. The shanks and toes of both varieties are dark-blue in color, wattles bright red, and ear lobes, white or bluish white.

No standard weight is given for Campines; they equal the Hamburgs in size.

HOUDANS.

The three varieties of poultry in the French class are the Houdans, Crevecœurs, and La Fleche. Of these the Houdans (fig. 32) are conceded to be the most popular and profitable, being bred to a great extent throughout the entire country. They are hardy and prolific layers of

large, white eggs. For table purposes they are among the best fowls. They have small bones and the flesh is tender and delicious. The chicks are sprightly, active, and feather rapidly. They are nonsitters and light feeders; like the Leghorns, they may be fed at a small cost as compared with some of the larger breeds. They are of medium size and of a mottled white plumage, black and white intermixed, the black slightly predominating; wing bars and secondaries, black; primaries, black and white intermixed. Houdans are a crested variety, having a leaf comb,

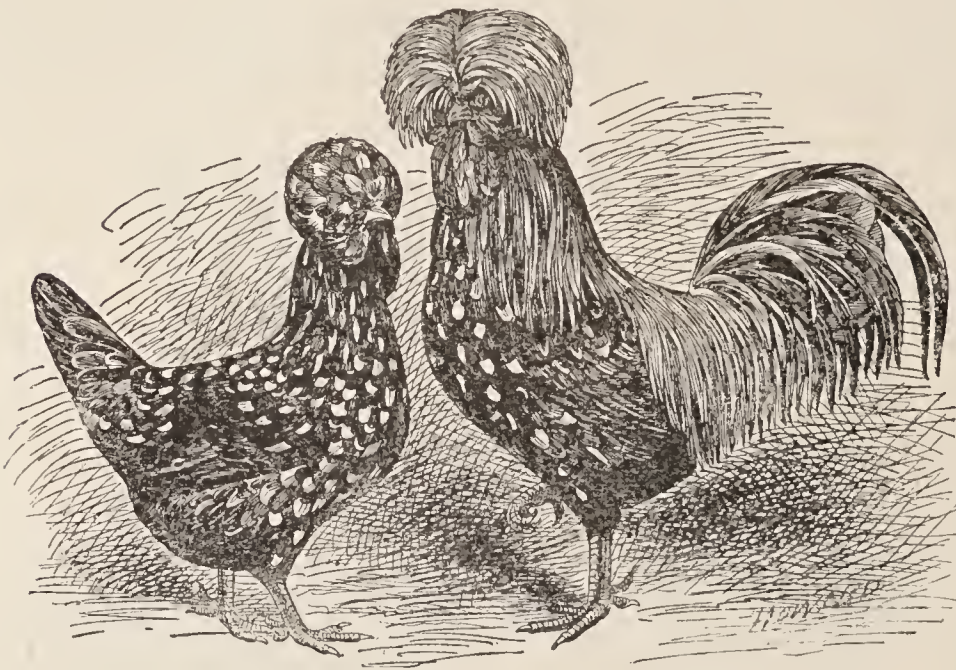


FIG. 32.—Pair of Houdans.

shaped somewhat like the letter V, which rests against the crest; crest of cock is large, well fitted upon the crown of the head, falling backward upon the neck, and composed of feathers similar in shape and texture to those of the hackle. The crest of the female is large, compact, and regular, inclin-

ing backward in an unbroken mass. A peculiarity of the breed is their having five toes, like the Dorkings; shanks and toes are of a pinkish-white color.

The standard weight of cocks is 7 pounds; hens, 6 pounds; cockerels, 6 pounds; and pullets, 5 pounds.

CREVECŒURS.

This variety is not so generally known in this country as the Houdans, but in France, their native country, they are bred extensively for market purposes. They are considered of superior quality for the table, their flesh being white and delicately flavored. They are of gentle disposition and do well in confinement. They have weak constitutions and require extra care and attention. As layers they are only fair, and are nonsitters. They are a crested variety, having comb and crest similar to the Houdan; and in plumage are a rich, greenish black throughout.

The standard weight of cocks is 8 pounds; hens, 7 pounds; cockerels, 7 pounds; and pullets, 6 pounds.

LA FLECHE.

La Fleche fowls differ in character from the other two breeds of French poultry mentioned. Houdans and Crevecœurs are more compactly built than La Fleche, the latter being tall and rather gaunt looking,

and, in style and character, denote the preponderance of Spanish blood. Their plumage is a rich, glossy black throughout. The comb is peculiar to itself, being leaf, of moderate size, branching and antler like, somewhat like two horns pointing upward. The birds are of extremely delicate constitution and difficult to raise. The flesh is more delicate and juicy than any variety except the Game. It is a moderate layer of very large, white eggs, but by no means so good as the Spanish in this respect; as a table fowl it claims superiority; but it does not mature early—not nearly so early as the Houdans or the Crevecœurs.

The standard weight of cocks is $8\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; hens, $7\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; cockerels, $7\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; and pullets, $6\frac{1}{2}$ pounds.

DORKINGS.

This English fowl may be considered an ideal bird for general purposes. It is hardy and can stand almost any amount of cold weather, providing the ground is not damp. This is proved by the fact that it does well in the northern part of Scotland and in the extreme north of Ireland, among the Cumberland Hills, and in other places equally cold and exposed. It should be remembered by those who contemplate raising this kind, that the soil must not be damp if success is expected. The Dorking (fig. 33) is one of the oldest of domestic fowls, if not the oldest. There are no definite records to show when it first lived in England, or whence it came, but the supposition is that it was carried to England by the Romans, who evidently possessed chickens of similar characteristics.

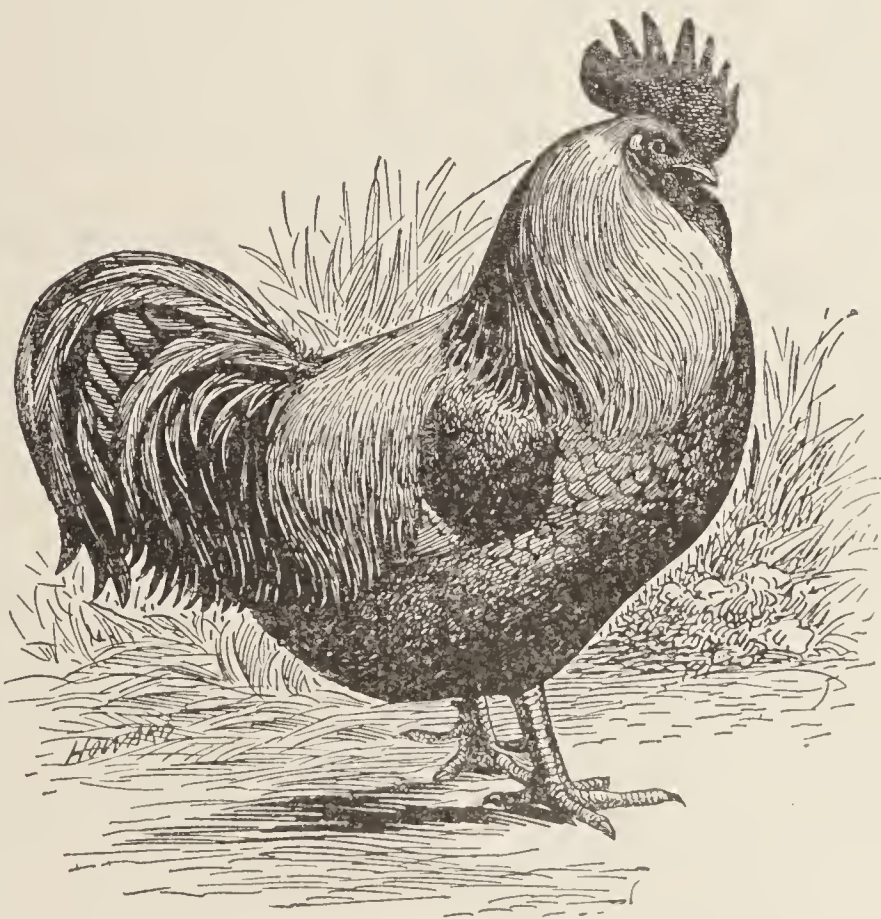


FIG. 33.—Silver Gray Dorking cock.

The chief distinctive mark of the breed is the presence of a fifth or supernumerary toe, springing behind, a little above the foot and below the spur. It has been sought by various writers to deprive Dorking of the honor of being the original and principal rearing place of this justly celebrated variety, and it is asserted that the true Dorking fowls are raised at Horsham, Cuckfield, and other places in the Weald of Surrey, and that the ancient and superior white fowls from Dorking are a degen-

erated race compared with the improved Sussex breed. The feature in which this bird is most popular is its table qualities. The flesh is white and very delicate in texture. It is claimed by many to equal if not excel the French varieties. The broad, deep, and projecting breast of the Dorking admirably fits it for table purposes, and in this respect it is conceded by some to rival the Indian Games. As layers the Dorkings are good, and are careful sitters and attentive mothers. They are profitable and splendid fowls for the farm.

There are three varieties of Dorkings—the White, Silver Gray, and Colored. The White Dorking is really the purest blooded of the three, as for years this was the only variety which produced invariably the fifth toe, although the Colored and Silver Gray varieties seldom fail to breed this peculiarity. In color the White Dorking is of clear, unblemished, glossy white. The comb and wattles are a bright scarlet red; the legs are either white or a delicate flesh color.

Silver Gray Dorkings are beautiful in plumage. The head of the cock is silvery white; hackle, silvery white, as free from stripes as possible; comb, face, ear lobes, and wattles, bright red; beak, horn color or white; eye, orange; breast, thigh, and under parts, black; back, shoulder coverts, saddle, and wing bow, pure silvery white; coverts, greenish-black; primaries, black, edged with white; secondaries, part of outer web forming wing bay, white; remainder of feathers forming wing butt, black; tail, greenish glossy black; legs, feet, and toe nails, white. The eye, beak, comb, face, wattles, legs, feet, and toe nails of the hen are the same as in the cock; head, silvery white, with slight gray markings; hackle, silvery white, clearly striped with black; breast, rich robin red or salmon red, shading off to gray in the lower parts; back, shoulder coverts, saddle, wing bow, and wing coverts, bright silver gray, with minute pencilings of darker gray on each feather, the shafts of the feathers, white; primaries, gray or black; secondaries, gray; tail, gray, of a darker shade than body; quill feathers, black.

Colored Dorkings differ from the others only in color, the general color of the male being black and straw color, while the female is marked with black and mixed gray, with breast of dark salmon edged with black. The combs of Dorkings differ in the three varieties; the White has a rose comb, Silver Grays have single combs, and Colored Dorkings may have either single or rose combs, but single is preferred.

The standard weights for Dorkings differ. The weights for Whites are: Cocks, $7\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; hens, 6 pounds; cockerels, $6\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; and pullets, 5 pounds. Silver Grays: Cocks, 8 pounds; hens, $6\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; cockerels, 7 pounds; and pullets, $5\frac{1}{2}$ pounds. Colored: Cocks, 9 pounds; hens, 7 pounds; cockerels, 8 pounds; and pullets, 6 pounds.

PIT GAMES.

The Game fowl is one of the most interesting varieties of domestic poultry. Its origin and history are seemingly linked with all topics concerning poultry and its origin, and even to this day the Game

class is looked upon differently from all others. There are two divisions—Pit Games and Exhibition Games—and perhaps three, which are as wholly different in character as though of distinct varieties. The Pit Game is not reckoned in the standard varieties of poultry, yet for practical and profitable poultry keeping it surpasses the more pretentious Exhibition Game. The type of the Pit Game is as distinct, thorough, and characteristic as any of the standard Games, differing in plumage and feather markings. Color is not considered in breeding Pits; it is muscle, bone, and strength that are sought after, bred for, and that distinguish it from its relative—the Exhibition Game. Note the contrast between the two types: The Pit is short, stout, and stocky, with abundant tail feathering; while the Exhibition Game is long, lanky, close feathered throughout, and spare in tail feathering.

For the farm and general purposes the Pit Game has always been considered a practical and profitable fowl. It is hardy, matures early, a good layer, and fine for table purposes. Its flesh is considered of exceptional value for eating, being fine grained, tender, and sweet. The hens are splendid sitters and careful mothers.

EXHIBITION GAMES.

For a long time Exhibition Games have been favorites in this country. By careful selection in breeding for many generations they have been brought to a high state of perfection. The beauty of an Exhibition Game is much praised in this and other countries and the pens are always filled at the shows. They are sought after and courted by fanciers, and as ornamental fowls they have few equals in the number of their admirers. The practical qualities of the Exhibition Game have never been demonstrated with accuracy, their tall figures standing in the way of popularity and general usefulness. It should not be understood that they are unprofitable to keep, but rather not a fowl for farm purposes. They are usually splendid layers and excellent table fowls, their meat being fine grained, tender, and juicy. They are splendid sitters and mothers. Their tall, commanding, and striking figures are decided contrasts to those of other poultry, and afford a diversion to admirers of fine poultry. The varieties of Exhibition Games are: Black-breasted Red, Brown Red, Golden and Silver Duckwing, Red Pyles, White, Black, Birchen, Cornish and White Indian, Malay, and Black Sumatra.

BLACK-BREASTED RED GAMES.

The history of the Black-breasted Red Game dates from the most remote times. They always breed uniformly and invariably alike in color, this uniformity being also observed in the Bantams of this name. The color of the Red Game cock is a bright orange; the head, hackle, and saddle being light red; the breast, body, and stern are black; the shoulders, with the exception of the shoulder coverts, are red; wing

bow, red; coverts, black; tail feathers, sickles, and tail coverts, lustrous black; thighs, black; shanks and feet, yellow. The hen is brown; head and hackles, light golden, the hackle feathers being striped with black down the center; the feathers of the body, penciled with black; tail, black or dark brown, the upper feathers being penciled with light brown.

The head of the cock is long, and the neck slim and snaky; breast, broad; great breadth across the shoulders; back, straight and sloping to the tail; body, hard and compact; wings, short; tail, small and closely folded, with few sickles and fine narrow hangers; thigh, long and well developed; shank, long, stout, and smooth; toes, long and straight. The hen is about the same shape as the cock, and the carriage of both is bold and upright. The Black-breasted Red Game is an excellent table fowl, and a moderate layer of medium-sized eggs of rich flavor. The chicks require much care, as their constitutions are weakened from too close breeding for ornamental purposes.

BROWN RED GAMES.

The Brown Red Game differs from the Black-breasted Red Game in the color of the head. The face is dark purple; beak, dark brown or black; wattles, comb, and ear lobes, black or dark purple; head of cock orange; hackle, lemon colored, with a black stripe down center of each feather; back, lemon; saddle, lemon colored, striped like hackle; breast, black, laced

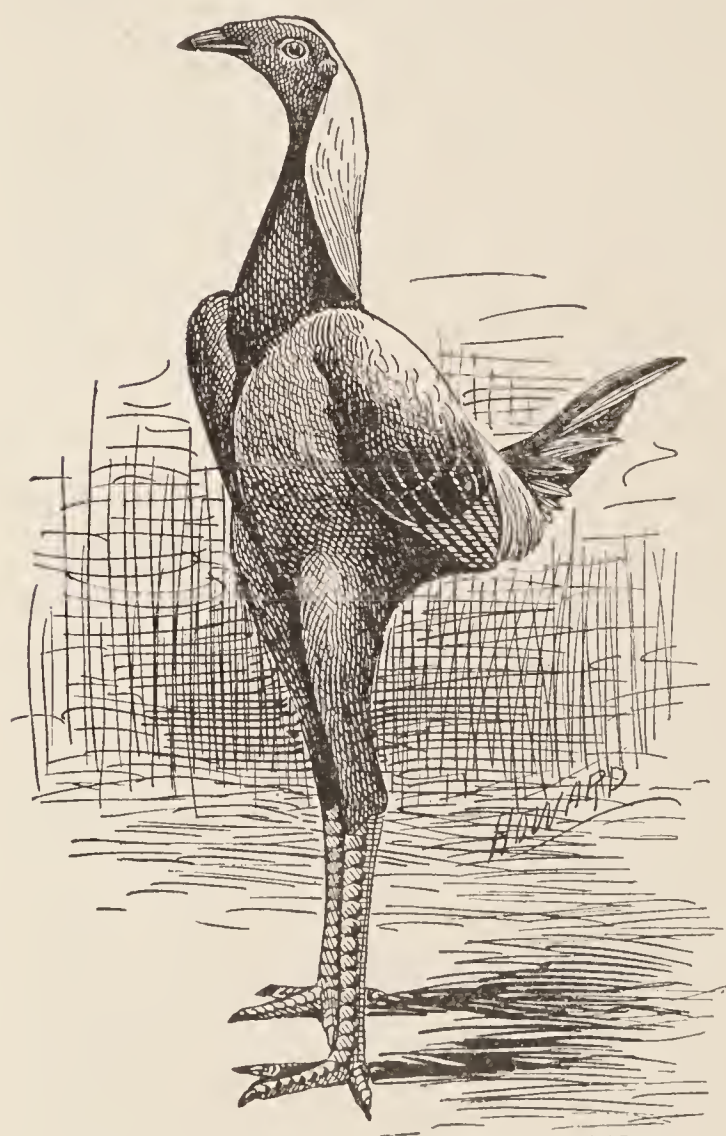


FIG. 34.—Silver Duckwing Game cockerel.

with lemon; shoulders, black; shoulder coverts, lemon; wing bows, lemon, and the coverts glossy black; tail, lustrous black; shanks and feet, dark yellow, nearly black.

GOLDEN AND SILVER DUCKWING GAMES.

The Golden and Silver Duckwing Games are similar in markings, the only difference being that the Silver Duckwing Cock (fig. 34) is white where the Golden Duckwing is golden or straw color. In both varieties the face, comb, wattles, and ear lobes are red; the beak, horn; breast, tail, and thighs, black; shanks and feet, yellow. In the Golden the head of the cock is straw color; back, golden; wing bow, golden, the wing coverts forming a distinct black bar across the wing. These points are white in the Silver Duckwing.

RED PYLE GAMES.

The plumage of head and the hackle of the Red Pyle Game cock (fig. 35) varies from bright orange to chestnut; back, crimson; breast, white, laced with chestnut; body, white; wings, crimson, transversed with a white bar; tail and tail coverts, white; the head of hen is chestnut; hackle, white, edged with yellow; back, white; breast, salmon; wings, white or chestnut tinged; tail, white; shanks and feet of both cock and hen are yellow or willow.

Red Pyles are similar in markings to the Black-breasted Reds, white being substituted for black (fig. 39).

WHITE AND BLACK GAMES.

These two varieties differ only in color from the others of their breed. The plumage of the White Game is a pure, spotless white; beak, shanks, and feet, yellow; comb, wattles, and ear lobes, red. The Black Game is a lustrous black in plumage; beak, shanks, and feet, black; comb, wattles, and ear lobes, deep red.

BIRCHEN GAMES.

Birchen Games are silvery white and black; head, hackle, back, and saddle of cock are silvery white, with a narrow black stripe in center of each hackle and saddle feather; breast black, each feather laced with silvery white; wing coverts, glossy black; tail and thighs, black; shanks and feet, dark willow or black; comb, wattles, and ear lobes, dark purple or black. The hen is black, except the hackle, which is silvery white, with a dark stripe down the center of each feather.

CORNISH AND WHITE INDIAN GAMES.

The Indian Game (figs. 36 and 37) has many fine qualities to recommend it to the breeder, and for many years past has been one of the most popular of fowls. In plumage the male is green-black without penciling; the wings, chestnut, with bay and metallic black wing bar; the feathers of the neck hackle are short and hard, green-black, with delicate crimson-brown shafts. The plumage of the hen is very difficult to obtain by breeding, and should be a combination of nut-brown and green-black throughout, green predominating. Along the breastbone of both male and female the feathers part and allow the skin to show

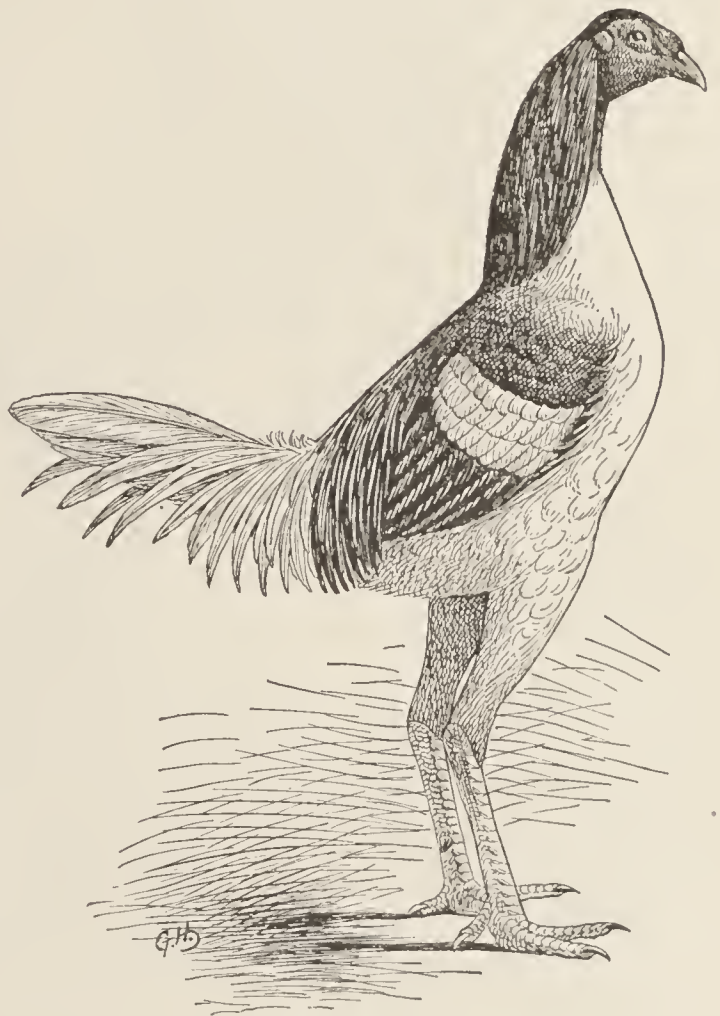


FIG. 35.—Red Pyle Game cock.

just at or above the upper point of the keel-bone. This is a distinctive feature of the breed, and shows from the time the chicks shed the down. The breast is very wide, round, and prominent, and should always be oval and full in contour; the thighs are well rounded, nicely tapering, and thick and meaty next the body; shanks, very stout, well scaled, and deep orange in color; back toe should be almost flat on the ground; tail, close and hard, carried well out, and sickles rather short; wings, tightly folded, the ends of the secondaries rounding off abruptly and resting close against the tail or just above it; eye, yellow approaching gray;



FIG. 36.—Pair of White Indian Games.

beak, yellow, or striped with horn color. The Indian Game is a beautiful bird, and its every movement bespeaks its high breeding.

MALAY GAMES.

The Malays (fig. 38) are supposed to be of the parent stock of the Black Javas. They have never been popular in this country and are bred for exhibition only, not possessing qualities for practical purposes. They are of medium size, and in carriage are particularly upright and powerful looking, the back standing almost always at an angle of forty-five degrees. Their plumage is very close, and red or maroon and black. The body tapers from the broad shoulders to the tail, which droops almost in a straight line with the back. The thighs are long and powerful. A striking feature of the Malay is the head. It is long

and snaky, the brows over the eyes heavy and projecting, giving the bird a cruel and fierce expression; the neck is long, and scanty of hackle; the skin of the throat is a bright red, and the scantiness of the plumage causes the red to show distinctly. This is a characteristic of the breed. The wattles and earlobes are slight in development; the shanks and toes are bright yellow. The Malays are large and hardy, and are used for crossing with other breeds to infuse vigor and size. In disposition they are reputed to be very savage, and in battle often literally tear their opponents to pieces.

BLACK SUMATRA GAMES.

Although a beautiful bird and possessing many fine points worthy the consideration of the fancier and breeder, the Black Sumatra game is



FIG. 37.—Cornish Indian Game hen.

little known. It is gentle of disposition and attentive to its young. There is considerable comment against the Sumatras on account of the long flowing tail and apparent lack of pit qualities; but as to this those who have witnessed their defense of their mates and young differ. They may be slow in opening a conflict, but when occasion demands no bird can show a greater amount of staying powers than the Sumatras. In plumage they are a rich, lustrous black throughout. The tail is long and drooping, with an abundance of long, flowing sickle feathers and coverts. This is a point which severs all connection with the Pit



FIG. 38.—Malay Game cock.

Game and places them in the front rank of the ornamental breeds.

GAME BANTAMS.

Game Bantams are diminutive representatives of the Exhibition Games. The color of plumage, markings, and shape must correspond with these features in the Game which bears its name, the diminutive size being the only distinguishing feature between the two. The cocks average 22 ounces in weight, the hens 20 ounces. The Malay Bantams average 2 ounces heavier.

SEBRIGHT BANTAMS.

Bantams are purely ornamental poultry and are kept for pleasure exclusively, though some contend they are profitable for eggs and table. This is hardly reasonable to suppose, as their diminutive size and small eggs would hardly pay for their keep other than for fancy purposes.

The Golden and Silver Sebright Bantams were originated in the early part of the present century by crossing a common Bantam with a Polish fowl and breeding the cross to a hen-feathered Bantam. After many years of successful breeding beautiful birds have been produced which breed true to type.

The plumage of the bird is rich golden yellow in the Golden variety, and silvery white in the Silver variety. The feathers of

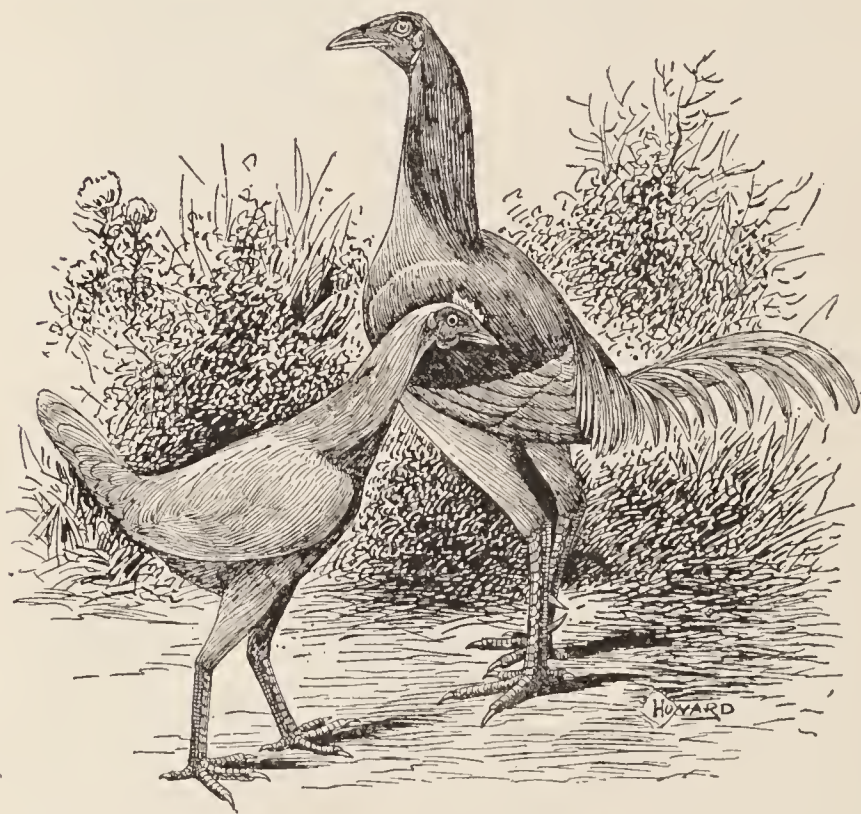


FIG. 39.—Pair of Red Pyle Games.

each variety are distinctly laced with a narrow edging of black. The head is small and surmounted by a bright red rose comb; the neck is well arched and hen-feathered; the back is short and free from saddle feathers; the breast is round and full and the body compact; the wings are large and carried so low as almost to cover the hocks; the thighs are short, and the shanks and toes slate color. The cocks weigh from 24 to 26 ounces, the hens about 20 ounces.

ROSE-COMB BANTAMS.

Rose-comb Bantams are miniature Hamburgs. There are two varieties—the Black and the White. The cocks have a small, round head; a short and slightly curved beak; large, prominent, bright eyes; rose comb, square in front, fitting firmly on the head, evenly corrugated on the upper surface, and ending in a spike with a slight upward curve;

flat, closely fitting ear lobes; broad, thin, smooth, and well-rounded wattles; neck, small at the head, increasing in size as it approaches the shoulders, nicely arched, and carried well back; abundant hackle of good length, sweeping over the shoulders and tapering toward the tail; long and plentiful saddle feathers; full, round breast, carried prominently forward; plump, compact, and symmetrical body; wings large, the points carried low, the secondaries slightly expanded; full, expanded tail, carried rather high and furnished with long curving sickles and coverts; short, well-rounded thighs, and short, clean, tapering shanks.

The head of the hen should be small and neatly rounded; eyes bright and full; comb of the same character as the cock's, but smaller and neater; flat, smooth, ear lobes; small wattles; short, tapering neck, carried well back; short back; full, prominent breast; compact body; ample wings, but not drooping so much as the cock's; full, expanded, upright tail; short, round thighs, and short, tapering shanks.

The plumage of the Black Rose-comb Bantam is lustrous black, and of the White, pure spotless white. The beak of the Black is black or dark horn color; of the white, yellow. The ear lobes of the Black are pure white; of the White, red. The shanks of the Black are dark, leaden blue; of the White, yellow.

BOOTED WHITE BANTAMS.

Booted White Bantams are distinguished, as their name implies, by heavily feathered, or booted, shanks. They have small heads and medium-sized single combs. The hackles are long and partly cover the shoulders; the wings are large and slightly drooping; the tail is upright, with long sickles and abundant coverts; thighs, medium in length, and covered with long, stiff feathers, or vulture hocks, which nearly reach the ground; toes and shanks, yellow. The plumage is pure white.

COCHIN BANTAMS.

Cochin Bantams—Buff, Partridge, White, and Black—are in both color and shape the same as their larger ancestors. They are the largest of the Bantam class. The cock weighs about 28 ounces, the hen 24 ounces.

JAPANESE BANTAMS.

The striking beauty and peculiar-shaped tails of the Black-tailed Japanese Bantams (fig. 40) make them great favorites and place them in the front rank of the Bantam class. They are white, excepting the tail and wings. The tail is black; the sickles black, edged with white. The wings are large and long, with drooping points; the color of the primaries and secondaries is dark slate, edged with white. When the wing is folded it shows only white. The tail is expanded and carried in an upright position, almost touching the back of the head; sickles,

long and gracefully curved. The shanks are free from feathers and bright golden in color.

The White and Black Japanese Bantams are the same in size and shape as the Black-tailed Japanese. The beak, shanks, and toes of the White are yellow, and those of the Black are yellow, or yellow shaded with black. The color of the White is pure white; of the Black, a lustrous black.

POLISH BANTAMS.

Polish Bantams are of American origin, and appeared about 1872, produced by an accidental cross of a White Polish cock and a common hen. At first the chicks had small crests and the plumage was often disfigured by foul feathers,

but under careful breeding the color has been established, so that foul feathers no longer appear and the crests have been nearly doubled in size. They were admitted to the Standard in 1879-80, and since then they have been disseminated throughout the country, although they are as yet comparatively rare, in perfection.



FIG. 40.—Black-tailed Japanese Bantam cock.

ORNAMENTAL POULTRY.

The Standard recognizes several varieties of poultry which are purely

ornamental in character and purpose. They can not be considered as either prolific for eggs or superior for table purposes.

RUSSIANS.

The Russian fowl is supposed to have been introduced into this country about fifty years ago, but the breed finds little, if any, favor here, and as a result it has become run down and scattered promiscuously. In size the birds are medium, the cocks weighing $8\frac{1}{2}$ pounds, the hens, $6\frac{1}{2}$ pounds. The cock has a well-formed head, rather large in size; stout, curved, black or horn-colored beak; rose comb, without spikes; full, heavy beard, which curves around to the back of the eyes; medium-sized ear lobes; long, pendulous wattles; well-arched neck; broad back, tapering to the tail; full, round breast; compact, broad body; wings of medium size; strong thighs; legs of medium length and dark, lead color;

the bottom of the foot, yellow; tail, erect and free from long sickle feathers. The hen is bearded like the cock; comb, similar but smaller; back of less width; full breast; tail of medium size, and carried moderately erect; legs, same as cock's.

SILKY FOWLS.

Silky fowls are not extensively bred in this country, but in England are very popular. Their soft, webless feathers, when in prime condition, are exceedingly loose and fluffy, standing out from the body in all directions, giving the fowl the appearance of a large bird, which their weight does not justify.

The cocks weigh from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 pounds, while the weight of the hens is from 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ pounds.

The birds are of rather square, compact Cochin build; crested, the cock's crest running back horizontally, while the hen's is globular; five-toed; feather-legged; rose comb, lumpy, in appearance and dark purple in color; ear lobes, blue or purple tinged with white; skin, violet, approaching black, the covering of the bones being of the same color; shanks, dark blue or black; plumage, white and downy.

Silkies lay a small egg of a pale buff color, and lay 10 to 25 before wanting to sit. They make excellent mothers, and are very valuable to hatch and rear the tender little ones of the more delicate varieties.



FIG. 41.—Sultan cock.

SULTANS.

Sultans (fig. 41) were exported from Turkey into England about 1854, and did not reach America till some years later. They might with propriety be classed with the Polish, considering the characteristics which they possess. A compact crest surmounts the head and they are full bearded. Two small spikes constitute the comb. The neck and saddle hackles are large, long, and flowing. The legs are heavily feathered and booted, and hocks vultured. They possess a fifth toe. The tail is full and erect, and in the cock is well sickled. While their beauty is their chief recommendation, they lay claim to modest usefulness—but only as layers, being too small for table fowls. They thrive well on a limited range or in confinement, and owing to their docility make excellent pets.

FRIZZLED FOWLS.

Frizzled fowls are the most grotesque members of the poultry family. Their name is applied from the peculiar manner in which their feathers curve upward and backward at the ends, as if in defiance of nature's laws. This curving is most conspicuous in the hackle and saddle feathers. As these birds vary in color, there is no rule for judging their plumage except that it must have the peculiar upward curve; any color is admissible. The combs may be either double or single. Frizzled fowls are reported to be hardy, and very early and good layers.

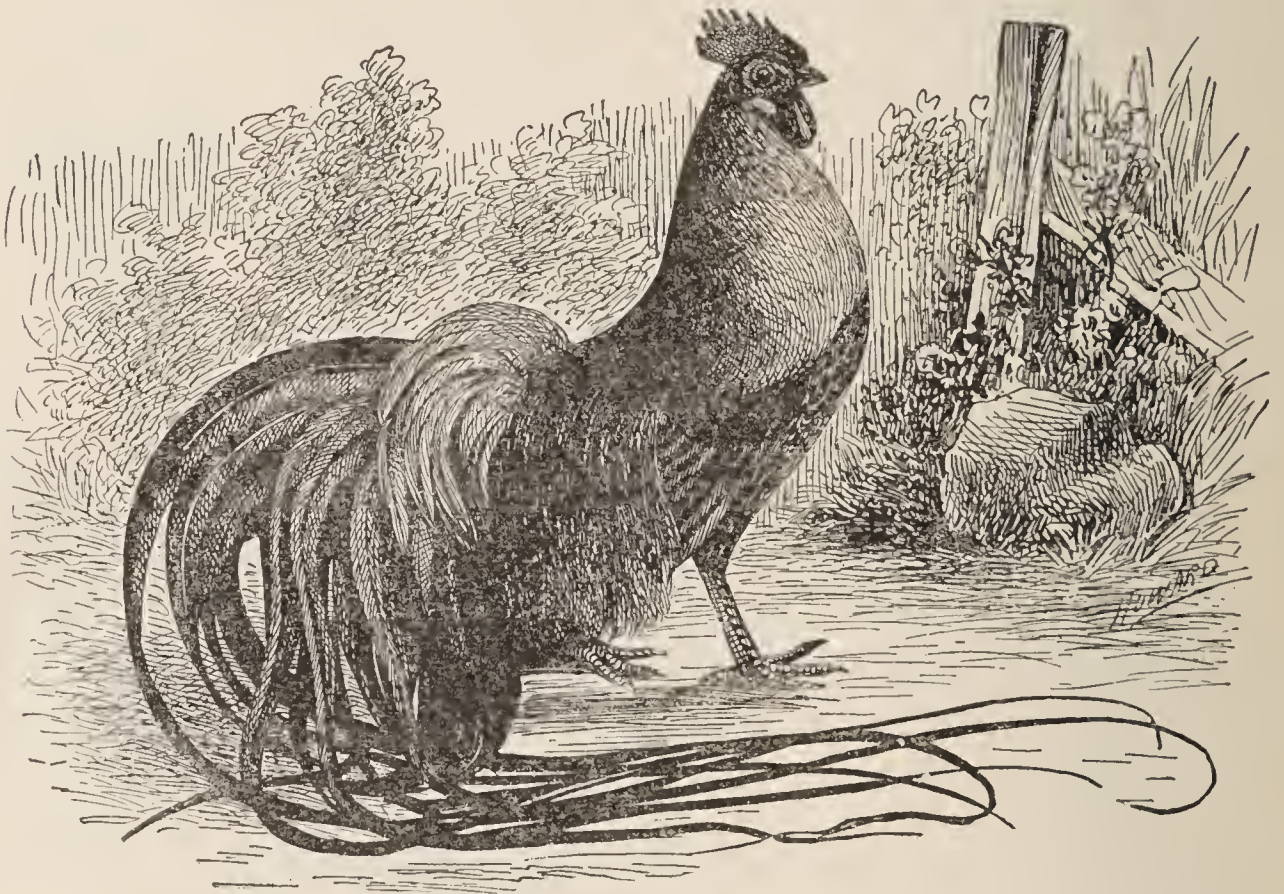
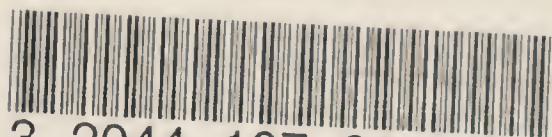


FIG. 42.—Long-tailed Japanese Game, or Phoenix, cock.

YOKOHAMA FOWLS.

Yokohama fowls (fig. 42) are noted for the great length of the tail and hackle feathers. Another variety, said to be superior in these points, is called Phoenix fowls. The Fung or Phoenix fowl is one of the myths of the Japanese religion, and is often seen in Japanese pictures. It is thought the Yokohama fowls are like those in the paintings, hence the name Phoenix is applied to the breed. The tails of these fowls average about a yard in length, and their colors and general appearance are those of the Games.

(NOTE.—In view of the numerous applications received by the Department of Agriculture for eggs and chickens of standard varieties as herein described, the reader is informed that these can not be supplied by this Department. Persons desiring either birds or eggs are referred to reliable dealers, whose advertisements appear in poultry journals and other agricultural publications.)



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